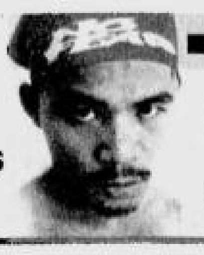
■ World / A8

Abbas wins Palestinian elections

■ Across / A13

Baguio tourism in peril over reports of meningo



■ Sports / A17

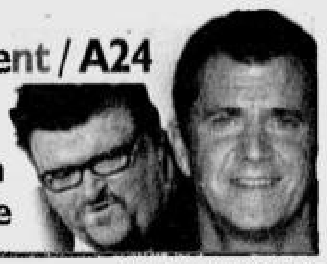
Pacquiao could end up facing Morales instead

■ Business / B1

Kirin hikes stake in SMC to 19.67%

■ Entertainment / A24

US fans go for Mel Gibson Michael Moore



website: www.inq7.net

Nurses, teachers warned anew on illegal recruiters

Blanche S. Rivera

BEFORE you sell your parents' house and lot, pawn your wife's jewelry, or hand over your life savings to yet another recruiter, read this: Illegal recruiters duped nurses and teachers hoping to work in the United States of almost P8 million in the last six months of last year.

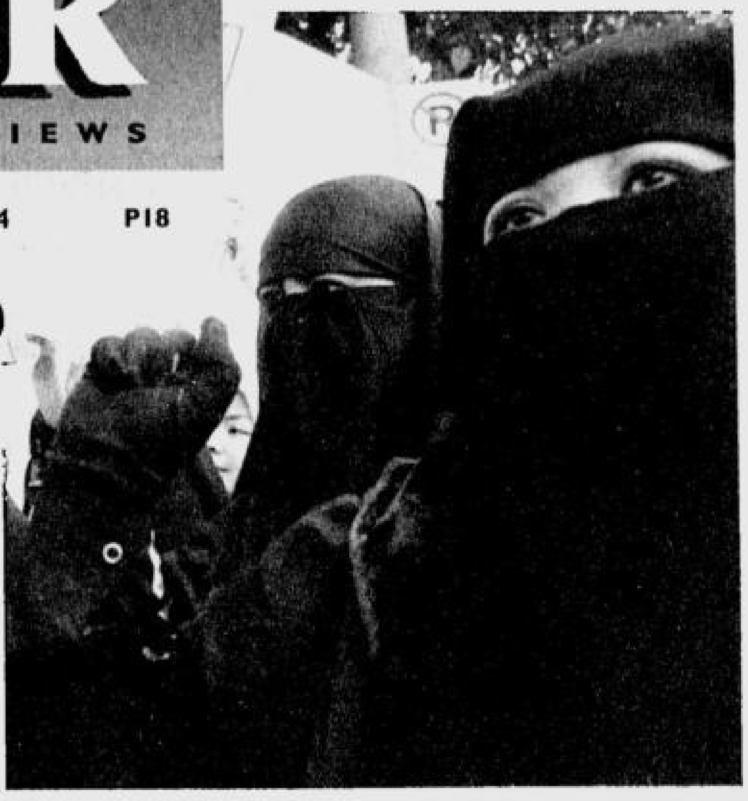
NURSES/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, January 11, 2005 ★★ 40 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 34 P18

MUSLIM women denounce the arrest of 16 persons during a police raid on an Islamic center in Manila during a rally in front of PNP headquarters in Camp Crame. JOAN BONDOC



Bombs, guns in raid 'planted,' says group

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MUSLIM group said yesterday it had two witnesses who would swear that police planted the explosives and guns to be supposedly used in an alleged Islamic terror plot to bomb the Black Nazarene procession.

Yusoph Ledesma, head of the Balik Islam Unity Congress, said the pair were preparing affidavits stating that police had found no evidence against the supposed plotters when they raided the Islamic Information Center in Manila last Friday.

Earlier, two top intelligence officials of the Philippine National Police had also questioned the existence of an alleged plot to bomb Sunday's religious feast in Quiapo. The procession came off peacefully.

Quoting the witnesses, Ledesma said that on breaking into the center, the raiders immediately handcuffed 17 persons and pushed them to the floor.

Police later brought in "big black bags" from which they took out guns and explosives, Ledesma claimed.

"Then they called in the media to announce that they got the terrorists with evidence to show," Ledesma told reporters during his group's protest rally in front of Camp Crame.

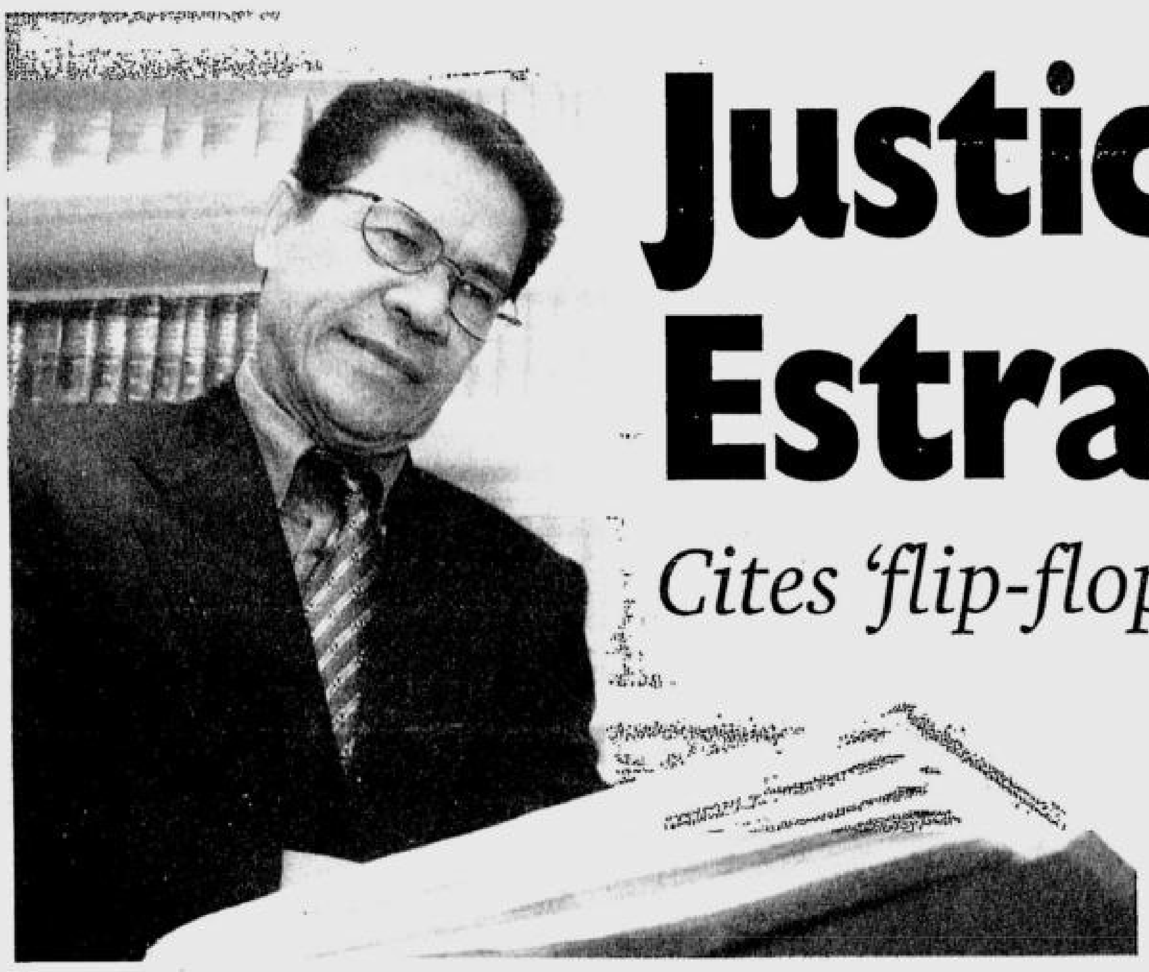
The other witness was also at the center and saw the same thing, according to Ledesma.

He said the two witnesses—one of whom was among those detained by the police—were now in his group's custody.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, whose men carried out the raid, said police were hunting 320 other suspected Islamic militants, Agence France-Presse reported.

He said the 320 were believed to have undergone explosives training in the north of the country in 2002, most of them as members of the Rajah Soli-

BOMBS/ A14



SANDIGANBAYAN Justice Edilberto Sandoval becomes the third head of a division trying former President Joseph Estrada to have resigned. VAL HANDUMON

Justice quits Estrada trial

Cites 'flip-flopping' of colleagues

By Armand N. Nocum

HE STOOD out as the lone dissenter on motions granting ousted President Joseph Estrada house arrest and a medical trip abroad.

He was bypassed when Malacañang appointed a junior member of the Sandiganbayan to be presiding justice last year.

Citing health reasons, 63-year-old Justice Edilberto Sandoval quit his post yesterday as chair and member of the special division trying Estrada on plunder and perjury charges.

But Sandoval voiced displeasure over the alleged inconsistencies and flip-flopping on the part of his colleagues in the antigraft court. The other members of the first division are Justices Teresita de Castro and Francisco Villaluz Jr.

"I maintained a consistent position—I dissented," he said. "What is on trial here is not only the former President, but the Sandiganbayan."

His resignation is seen as a big blow to the court still reeling from criticism that it is going soft on Estrada and that supposed pro-Estrada justices were rewarded with plum posts.

"I resigned satisfied with the thought that I have done my best and I have been fair," he told court officials, lawyers and observers who were expecting an "ordinary" hearing, the court's first this year.

Sandoval is to be replaced by De Castro, but Estrada's trial could be delayed due to the changes, court sources said.

Estrada, accused of salting away P4.5 billion before his term was ended by a popular uprising in January 2001, is now in Hong Kong recovering from knee surgery. He is due to return on Jan. 15.

A motion by Estrada's lawyers to extend his stay by a week was to have been heard by the special antigraft court on Monday, but that hearing and his trial are now on hold until a new judge is named.

JUSTICE/ A6

Moro rebs overrun Army base; 21 killed

By Alcuin Papa and PDI Mindanao Bureau

SEEKING to avenge the death of one of their commanders, about 200 Moro guerrillas overran an Army base in Maguindanao, triggering fierce clashes that left 21 combatants dead, the military said yesterday.

The fighting, involving guerrillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and other insurgents, was the biggest to occur in the South in nearly two years and threatened a ceasefire that had prevailed for 17 months.

"We are in close contact with the MILF. We are trying to contain these clashes to the immediate vicinity to prevent a spillover to other areas," Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano said.

Ceasefire monitors from Malaysia, Brunei and Libya, together with government and MILF representatives, were trying to reach the scene of the fighting, guerrilla spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

The dead included 13 guerrillas, the military said. But military officials gave varying figures—ranging from six to eight—on the number of soldiers dead.

"I am not sure of that, unless we have the body count," 6th Infantry Division spokesperson Lt. Col. Franklin del Prado said, when asked about the 13 report-

MORO/ A14

No more 'Mr. Suave' ring tone

By Armand N. Nocum and Philip C. Tubeza

ONLY one mobile phone was allowed to ring during hearings of the special division of the Sandiganbayan for five months up to yesterday.

It belonged to former acting Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval, who headed the division starting in August 2004.

The ring tone not only stopped the hearings momentarily, but also elicited smiles from people in the court bored by the three-year trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Sandoval's ring tone is "Mr. Suave (Mr. Smooth or Cool)," which was sung by the local pop rock group Parokya ni Edgar.

As he carefully stated his reasons for quitting his post as chair and member of the special division yesterday, Sandoval appeared to have been living up to his ring tone.

Colleagues described Sandoval as an excellent jurist with solid credentials in criminal law.

"Actually, he's a very good lawyer. He has an excellent background, especially in criminal law," said lawyer Ismael Khan, public information chief of the Supreme Court.

Khan also noted that Sandoval was the most senior justice at the antigraft court.

Sandoval was voted most outstanding judge of Manila for three consecutive years (1991-94) before President Fidel Ramos ap-

NO MORE/ A6

DIRTY MONEY PALA ANG USAPAN DITO

Rosebud-Mike fight over money, Ping charges

By Michael Lim Ubac

PERA-PERA lang 'yan (It's all about money).

That was how Sen. Panfilo Lacson described the recent word war between former police agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong and First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"*Tuloy ang laban* (Continue the fight)!" Lacson advised Ong, his erstwhile accuser, although she has been "officially silenced" by a group of top generals who ordered her to shut up while the issue of her P3-million agent's fee was be-

ROSEBUD-MIKE/ A4

Chopper crash, aftershocks rattle relief effort

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—A US helicopter on a tsunami relief mission on Monday crashed in Indonesia, injuring all 10 servicemen aboard and briefly suspending operations, while strong aftershocks and security concerns provided more challenges for aid workers two weeks after the killer waves hit.

Millions of people are homeless and bodies were still being pulled from collapsed buildings after the Dec. 26 tsunami killed more than 150,000 people across 11 countries. Indonesia's government on Monday promised to step up efforts to recover and bury the dead.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was assessing damage in the Maldives, a low-lying string of coral atolls in the Indian Ocean that lost 82 people. The United Nations is now coordinating humanitarian relief efforts in all the countries affected by the disaster and is taking that responsibility "very, very seriously," Annan said.

The US Seahawk helicopter crashed in a rice paddy about 500 meters from the airport in Banda Aceh, capital of Indonesia's hard-hit Aceh province and the hub of international aid operations.

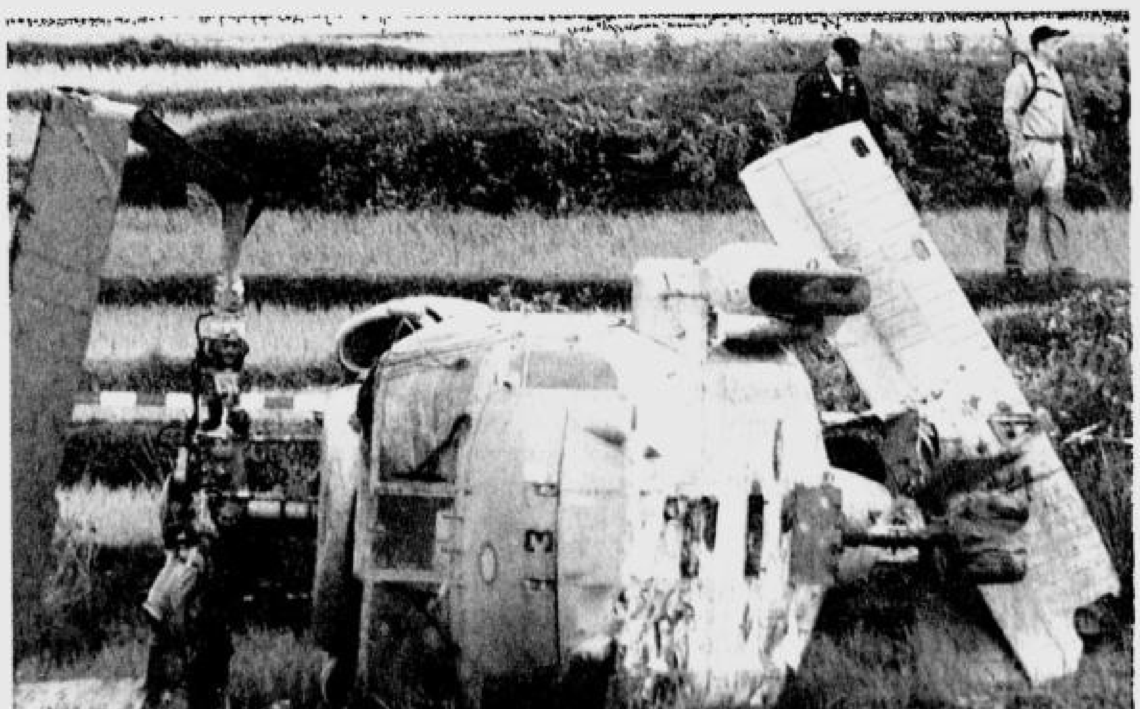
Capt. Kendall L. Card, commander of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier stationed off the Indonesian coast, said over the ship's loudspeakers that four of the servicemen had very minor injuries and six were hurt more seriously, the worst with a dislocated pelvis.

Lt. Cmdr. John M. Daniels blamed the crash, which happened just after 7:30 a.m. (0030 GMT), on "possible mechanical failure." US authorities said there was no indication the helicopter had been shot down.

The crash came amid heightened security concerns in several tsunami-hit areas with ethnic rebellions—particularly in Aceh where rebels have waged a separatist war in the province for nearly three decades.

Members of the UN staff in Aceh are on high alert and armed guards patrol their com-

CHOPPER/ A14



AMERICAN military personnel walk around the Navy Seahawk helicopter that crashed in a rice field near a military air base in Banda Aceh. The aircraft was bringing aid to tsunami victims. AFP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and eastern Luzon, eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers becoming widespread over the eastern section. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/11/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PNP announces 'surprise' inspection for bad eggs in police ranks

By Christian V. Esguerra

ALL KINDS of bad eggs—moonlighting cops, wanted cops, absentee cops—can be found in the Philippine National Police force, an independent antigraft body admitted yesterday.

And for Insp. Gen. Alexis Canonizado, head of the PNP Internal Affairs Service, the best way to flush them out is to announce a "surprise" inspection.

"It's better for them to know it in advance and correct it than to know it beforehand and still not do anything about it," he said yesterday. "They'll be in deeper trouble then."

Canonizado and his men yesterday began the tedious task of inspecting all PNP offices and units nationwide.

In a memorandum dated Jan. 6, he outlined the targets of the "nationwide surprise inspection."

Leading the pack of undesirable policemen are what he called the "15/30" officers, or those who report for work only on payday.

"We all know that they've been here since time immemorial," Canonizado said.

There are also "moonlighting" officers, or those who have a "main occupation" and consider their PNP career only as a part-time job, the inspector general said.

Then there are cops who have been declared absent without official leave (Awol) but had yet to be investigated and expelled, those who are physically and mentally incapable of working, and those who are bumming around abroad, he said.

During the inspections, IAS officials will look for these cops and file appropriate charges against them, Canonizado said.

Part of the hunt is an expanded lifestyle check on all PNP officers.

"Along the way, we will ask about policemen who might be maintaining lifestyles grossly disproportionate to their legitimate incomes," Canonizado said.

The IAS started the lifestyle check in October last year in the wake of allegations that many policemen, senior officers particularly, were living beyond their means.

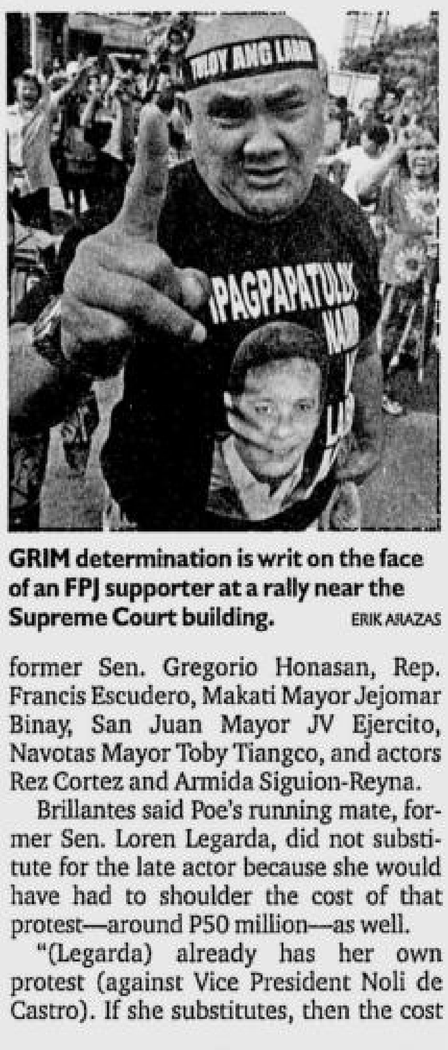
But after the IAS ordered all cops to submit their statements of assets and liabilities for the last five years, it was not clear what became of the campaign.

Susan picks up FPJ fight vs GMA

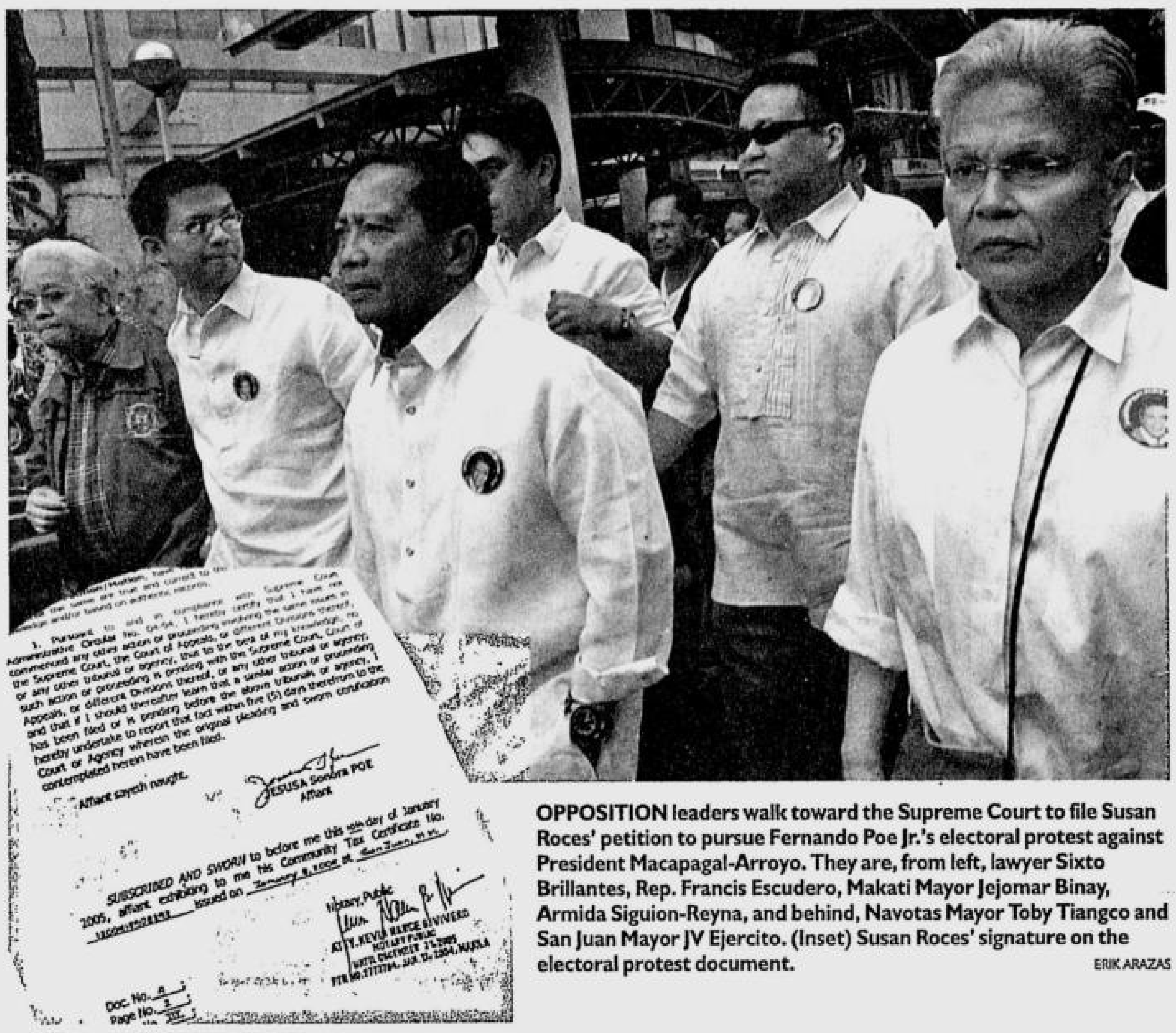
She asks SC to allow her to substitute for dead hubby in poll protest

By Philip C. Tubeza

ROCES wants to find out "true and genuine will of the people." PDI PHOTO



GRIM determination is writ on the face of an FPJ supporter at a rally near the Supreme Court building. ERIK ARAZAS



OPPOSITION leaders walk toward the Supreme Court to file Susan Roces' petition to pursue Fernando Poe Jr.'s electoral protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo. They are, from left, lawyer Sixto Brillantes, Rep. Francis Escudero, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Armida Siguion-Reyna, and behind, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito. (Inset) Susan Roces' signature on the electoral protest document. ERIK ARAZAS

ACTRESS Susan Roces, after "deep soul-searching and thorough deliberation," yesterday asked the Supreme Court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal to allow her to continue the electoral protest filed by her late husband, Fernando Poe Jr., against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an 11-page petition, Roces (real name: Jesusa Sonora Poe) asked the tribunal to permit her to substitute for her late husband who had refused to concede the presidential election to Ms Arroyo, charging massive fraud.

Poe, a movie star, died on Dec. 14, 2004, two days after suffering a massive stroke. He lost the May 10, 2004, presidential election to Ms Arroyo by over one million votes.

Roces said that while she knew that she would not become President if the election protest prospered, the protest should continue "so as to ascertain the true and genuine will of the people/electorate" in the May elections.

"Her sole motivation and pronounced purpose is to insure that the sovereign will and true voice of the Filipino electorate as manifested in the national elections is upheld and sustained," said the petition filed by her lawyer, Sixto Brillantes Jr.

"Thus, with the above as her compelling and impelling purpose and reason, herein intervenor/substitute protestant Mrs. FPJ, after a deep soul-searching and thorough deliberation, has opted and decided to continue and pursue the above protest case initiated by her deceased husband/protestant," it said.

Brillantes asked the court to allow Roces to substitute for her deceased husband, "but in representation of Juan de la Cruz/the Filipino people/electorate," and to issue a resolution directing the protest case to continue "until terminated, with deceased appropriately substituted, and at the instance of the herein... Mrs. FPJ."

In a show of support, leading members of the United Opposition (Uno) joined Brillantes when he filed the motion yesterday morning. They included former Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Rep. Francis Escudero, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, and actors Rez Cortez and Armida Siguion-Reyna.

Brillantes said Poe's running mate, former Sen. Loren Legarda, did not substitute for the late actor because she would have had to shoulder the cost of that protest—around P50 million—as well.

"(Legarda) already has her own protest (against Vice President Noli de Castro). If she substitutes, then the cost [to her] would double," Brillantes said.

"Also, (Legarda) does not have to substitute for (Poe). If her own election protest prospers together with that of (Roces), then she would benefit and would become President," he said.

Brillantes said Poe's death did "not extinguish" the election protest against Ms Arroyo and that Roces possessed the "legal capacity and standing" to substitute for her husband.

He cited the Supreme Court ruling in De Castro vs Comelec and Medrano, where the court ruled that "an election protest is not purely personal and exclusive to the protestant or to the protestee such that the death of either would oust the court of all authority to continue the protest proceedings."

Brillantes also said that Roces had the "undying determination to unearth the truth," the "fervent yearning to achieve justice," and the "willingness to somehow provide the required logistics and necessary finances" to pursue the case until it is decided.

Opposition still divided, says Angara

By Michael Lim Ubac

SUSAN Roces' move to substitute for her late husband, Fernando Poe Jr., in his election protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo has not unified the political opposition.

Opposition stalwart Sen. Edgardo Angara made this clear yesterday as he told the INQUIRER that Poe's widow was not the de facto leader of the opposition.

Although it was Angara who convinced Poe to run for President, the senator said what Roces was doing was "simply continuing the protest."

But whether she was "now the titular opposition leader, that's another question, another matter," Angara said.

Angara said Roces' pursuit of the electoral protest of her late husband was "very personal to her."

"She has said that she doesn't want to get involved in politics; it's really a personal decision," he said.

Angara's nemesis in the opposition, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, said in a separate interview that Roces' role in the political opposition was still ambiguous.

"First, we should define who the opposition is. We should first cleanse our ranks because there are pseudo-opposition (or those) pretending to be opposition," said Lacson, who feuded with Angara over the latter's choice of Poe as opposition standard-bearer in the May 10, 2004, elections.

Malacañang unfazed by FPJ widow's move

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is unfazed by the move of Susan Roces to substitute for her late husband, Fernando Poe Jr., in the electoral protest he had filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The sudden death of Poe from a stroke last month thrust his once reticent wife into the political limelight, after she spoke out during his wake against those she perceived had disrespected him.

"We do not want to speculate on the plans of Susan Roces," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in an interview yesterday over dzBB radio.

"If any legal actions are filed by her or on her behalf, these will be handled by our lawyers who will file the proper response before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal."

Ms Arroyo's election lawyer yesterday dismissed as having "no legal basis" Roces' petition to the PET to allow her to sit in for her late husband in the electoral protest he had filed against Ms Arroyo over the results of the May 10, 2004, presidential election which he lost.

Romulo Macalintal said he had yet to discuss the development with Ms Arroyo but he would advise her to wait for the Supreme Court decision on Roces' petition before making any legal moves. The high court sits as the PET.

"But personally, as an election lawyer, I believe there is no legal basis for Susan Roces to be the substitute in the electoral protest," said Macalintal in a phone interview. He maintained that Poe's protest had died with him.

Macalintal cited the case of the late Col. Rolando Abadilla, who had filed an electoral protest against Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan after their congressional race. After Abadilla was ambushed and killed allegedly by communist assassins, his widow tried to pursue the protest.

Macalintal said the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) dismissed the petition, saying the protest was "personal to the protestant."

He said the HRET had ruled that with Abadilla's death, "there is no protest to speak of and no person or party can substitute for the deceased protestant." It further said that the widow could not substitute for her husband because "public office is personal to the incumbent."

Macalintal said Ablan's lawyer was none other than Sixto Brillantes Jr., Poe's and Roces' lawyer in the electoral protest.

Macalintal said that under PET rules, only the presidential candidates who obtained the second- or third-highest number of votes could file an electoral protest.

He said Poe had specifically stated in his protest that all allegations contained there were of his "own personal knowledge."

"I would say only those who meet this qualification can file the protest," Macalintal said.

House Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon), Poe's campaign spokesperson, thinks otherwise.

"Yes," he said yesterday, when asked if he thought Roces had the legal personality to substitute for her late husband in his electoral protest.

Escudero, a lawyer, said the Supreme Court itself had laid down jurisprudence on the effect of the death of parties involved in electoral contests.

"An electoral protest is a proceeding imbued with public interest," Escudero said. "That public interest is served when the court has ascertained who was the candidate really elected by the people."

Escudero said PET rules provide for a substitute in order for a case to proceed.

"Does it need to be Susan Roces? [It] must be somebody who will be able to raise funds. It must be somebody who is serious in pursuing the case and not to sabotage it," Escudero said.

Escudero said that while Roces had agreed to sit in for her late husband, this did not mean she was entering politics.

"Her continuation of the electoral protest doesn't mean that she will now lead the opposition or be a candidate in future elections," Escudero said.

SolGen, judge tangle in court over Naia 3 expropriation case

THE JUDGE presiding over the expropriation case the government filed against Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) involving Naia Terminal 3 was not amused by the government's motion that he inhibit himself from the case.

"Why did you come to this court if you just intended to assault its decision?" Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge Henrick Gingoyon yesterday asked Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

Benipayo, calling attention to the "irregular circumstances" surrounding the judge's order last week that the government pay Terminal 3 builder Piatco $62 million in partial compensation, had moved for the re-raffle of the case to another judge of the Pasay RTC.

Unfazed by Gingoyon's question, Benipayo replied, "That's why we filed a motion for inhibition."

He added that it was not the Office of the Solicitor General that decided that the case would be handled by Gingoyon.

Gingoyon on Jan. 4 directed the Land Bank of the Philippines-Baclaran branch to immediately release $62.34 million to Piatco to be subsequently deducted from the amount of "just compensation" due Piatco to be determined by the court. The OSG has also asked the court to reconsider this order.

Gingoyon issued the order after the government filed on Dec. 31 the expropriation case against Piatco in a bid to have the airport terminal finally open by June this year.

Benipayo questioned the judge's issuing the order motu proprio, or on his own, "without motion from any party, without notice to the OSG and without setting a hearing on the matter."

Benipayo also asked the court why no hearing was conducted regarding the appointment of three commissioners who will determine the real value of Terminal 3.

Gingoyon said that a public hearing in the appointment of the three commissioners was not necessary, in the same way that the government did not find it necessary to have a hearing in deciding to take over the terminal.

"No hearing was conducted when a decision was made granting the writ of possession of the Terminal 3 to the government," Gingoyon said. *Nancy Calaour-Carvajal*

65 students crammed into a room? Yes and no

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

EDUCATION Secretary Florencio Abad has denied that he issued an order increasing the class size in public schools to 65.

Abad had told reporters on Dec. 27 that he never gave the directive.

He also insisted he had no plans to cram more students into classrooms because of the chronic problem of classroom shortage.

"A class size of 65 is already too crowded. That's no longer conducive to learning," Abad had said.

It turned out that Abad indeed wrote the memo allowing a maximum of 65 students in a class. However, the order, dated Dec. 13, was only issued last week.

"Given the perennial problem of inadequate classrooms, class size shall range from a minimum of 15 pupils/students to a maximum of 65 pupils/students per class. The average class size shall be 50," Abad said in his Department Order 62 dated Dec. 13.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Abad but he was still unavailable.

In the memo, Abad also made it a policy for all public elementary and high schools to go on "double shifts" to accommodate the increasing enrollment.

Starting June this year, public schools which have not yet gone on two shifts must now hold morning and afternoon classes.

Several public schools in Metro Manila have long resorted to two class shifts—some have as many as four shifts—resulting in shorter class hours.

During a luncheon with reporters on Dec. 27, Abad had admitted that because of the classroom shortage, some schools are cramming more students into one class. Public high schools in Payatas, for instance, had as many as 80 students in a class.

Abad had assured one of his undersecretaries that the DepEd would not pack more students into classrooms which were designed for only 45 students.

Assistant Secretary Teodoro Catindig and media relations chief Alice Pañares, who were with Abad at the luncheon, also firmly denied that there was a directive for a bigger class size.

In April 2000, Abad's predecessor Edilberto de Jesus increased the maximum class size to 60, citing "resource constraints."

In June last year, the DepEd reported that it was short of 51,947 classrooms.

House leaders revive move to zap Senate, shift to unicameral system

By Carlito Pablo

LEADERS of the House of Representatives have revived proposals for a shift from the current bicameral to a unicameral or parliamentary system of government by amending the 1987 Constitution.

Led by Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Rep. Raul del Mar (Lakas, Cebu City), the lawmakers said that the need for change has been highlighted following the failure of last week's special session of Congress to ratify even just one revenue measure, a shortcoming largely attributed to delays in legislation at the Senate.

Senate snag

"The House cannot remain indifferent to the way things are moving—or not moving—in the Senate," Del Mar said.

Del Mar said that the experience of the Jan. 5-7 special session "clearly shows a Senate failing to keep pace with the workings of the House."

"In the end, what we see compels the attention of not a few to be riveted in the direction of unicameralism, a unicameral legislative body as a solution—by way of constitutional amendment—to this kind of legislative inaction," Del Mar said.

In a delicately worded indictment of legislative delays in the Senate, Del Mar said that the adoption of a unicameral system will "avoid the wastage of time and effort put forth by a more industrious chamber."

Congress adjourned its special session in the evening of Jan. 7, three days after the House waited for Senate approval of just one revenue measure in order for the next phase—bicameral conference committee proceedings—to commence.

Attrition bill

The Senate passed only the lateral attrition bill with no more time left for bicameral conference discussions, much less the ratification by both chambers of a reconciled bill.

Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) took the perspective of international credit rating agencies in reviewing the outcome of the special session.

"In the United States, if, say, a Republican President has a Republican-dominated House and Senate, legislation will be a breeze," he said.

"In our case, both chambers of Congress are dominated by the administration and yet we're encountering problems with legislation. This is what international observers cannot comprehend," Nograles said.

Best argument

"What happened, therefore, during the special session is the best argument for a unicameral system of government. Why should the President deal with two chambers and two sets of leadership when one can have only one legislative body?" Nograles said.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula (Lakas, Cagayan de Oro City) said that President Macapagal-Arroyo would not have needed to call for a special session had the Senate kept up with the House in legislative work.

Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, recalled that before the Christmas break, the House had passed on third and final reading two revenue measures—the lateral attrition bill and the proposed tax amnesty.

"Now if we have a unicameral body, these delays need not occur," he said.

More efficient

Rep. Eric Singson (LP, Ilocos Sur), vice chair of the House ways and means committee, said that the argument for a unicameral shift has been strengthened.

"Legislative work becomes more efficient if we have only one chamber," Singson said.

Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Eduardo Gullas (Alayon, Cebu) cautioned his colleagues who were pushing for a shift to unicameralism through Charter change.

"It might appear somehow rash to rush for constitutional amendments too soon. Suffice to say that the President was justified in calling for a special session," he said.

"Even if no bill was ratified, the Senate and House nevertheless moved forward and this is still welcome news," Gullas said.

Del Mar said that bottlenecks in legislation, primarily at the Senate, are "not really unusual" in the current bicameral setup.

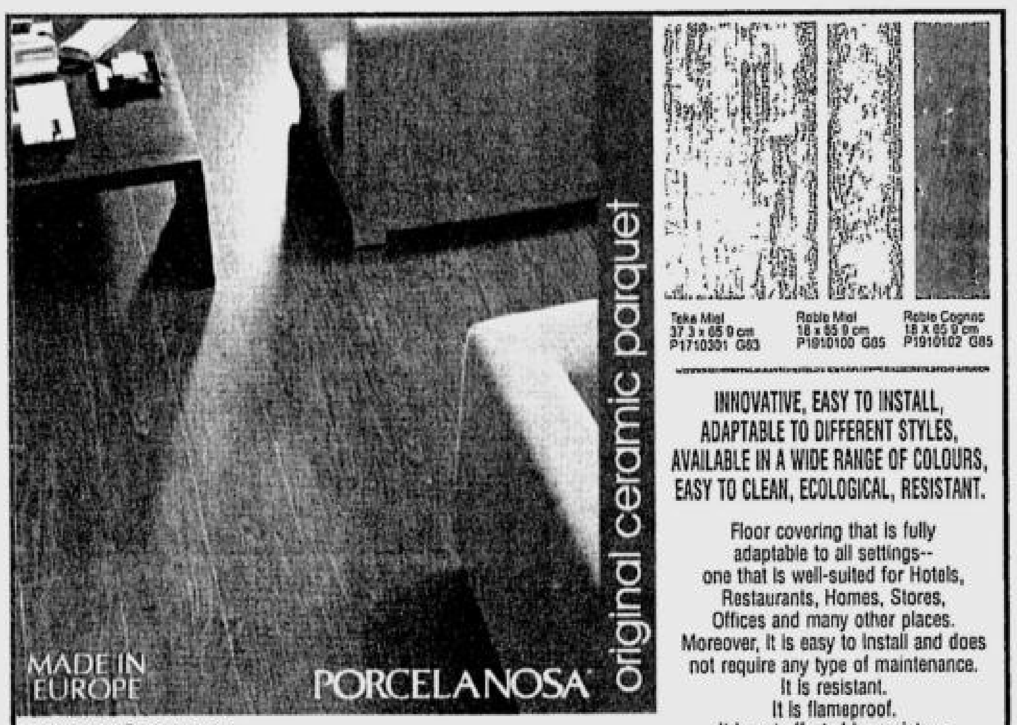
"Historically, at every adjournment of Congress, we see bills by the House remaining unacted by the Senate," Del Mar said.

Del Mar noted that in the 12th Congress, there were 778 local bills and 210 national bills passed by the House but were not acted upon by the Senate.

Want to join the Jesuits?

THE JESUIT Priests and Brothers will hold a vocation seminar for male college students and young professionals on Jan. 23, 2005, Sunday. The seminar will be held at the Conference Room-Penthouse of the Makati Citadel Inn at 5007 P. Burgos St., Makati City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration is free. For details, those interested may call 426-6101 and ask for any member of the Vocation Promotions Team. Or, you may send an e-mail to vocprom@vasia.com or acoloma@admu.edu.ph. Or, you may send a text message to 0927-6492119 or 0927-2184567.


original ceramic parquet
MADE IN EUROPE
PORCELANOSA
Teka Miel 37.3 x 65.9 cm P1710301 G83
Roble Miel 18 x 65.9 cm P1910100 G85
Roble Cognac 18 X 65.9 cm P1910102 G85

INNOVATIVE, EASY TO INSTALL, ADAPTABLE TO DIFFERENT STYLES, AVAILABLE IN A WIDE RANGE OF COLOURS, EASY TO CLEAN, ECOLOGICAL, RESISTANT.

Floor covering that is fully adaptable to all settings-- one that is well-suited for Hotels, Restaurants, Homes, Stores, Offices and many other places. Moreover, it is easy to install and does not require any type of maintenance. It is resistant. It is flameproof. It is not affected by moisture. It is resistant to such stains as ink, oil, wax and cigarettes, as well as scratches, termites and insects. Because its colour is inalterable it does not experience contractions caused by changes in temperature; and because it is also the most ecological type of flooring.

ALL ITEMS ON STOCK

Imported Exclusively by
ADVENTURE IMPORT-EXPORT Established 1974

QUEZON CITY G/F C. Ramirez Bldg., 121 Quezon Ave. cor. Araneta Ave, Quezon City
Tels. 781-0095 • 781-0096 • 740-8069 Telefax No. 414-4788 (Mon - Sat 8:30 - 5:30pm)
MAKATI BEL-AIR (CASA 225) 225 N. Garcia St. (former Reposo), Bel-Air (beside Puto Reposo), Makati City Tels. 896-4964 • 896-4450 Telefax: 896-8783 (Mon - Sat 8:30 - 6:30 pm)
MAKATI BUENDIA 7-E UPY Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Marconi St., Makati City
Tels. 833-4643 • 833-4642 • 728-8946 Fax No. 816-0333 (Mon - Sat 9:00 - 6:00 pm)
BACOOR CAVITE (Near SM Bacoor) Km 20 Gen. Tirona Hi-way Mabolo, Bacoor, Cavite
Tel. (046) 434-3514 • (046) 434-3576 Fax: (046) 970-3364 (Mon - Sat 8:00am - 5:00 pm)
OFFICE Tel. 834-2543 • 551-5110 • 831-2122 • 831-9123 • 831-8424 Fax No. (632)831-6850

Nararanasan mo ba ang mga ito:

☑ **Madalas mauhaw**
☑ **Madaling magutom**
☑ **Malimit na pag-ihi**
? **Tumutulong kisame**

Ang madalas na pagkauhaw, pagkagutom, at malimit na pag-ihi ay maaaring palatandaan ng Diabetes, isang sakit na dama hanggang bulsa.

Buti na lang, may mga gamot ang RiteMED para sa Diabetes na de-kalidad, epektibo at abot-kaya. Para sa mga sakit na araw-araw ang gamutan at para di ka magipit sa ibang pangangailangan.

Kumunsulta sa inyong doktor. Itanong kung aling gamot ng RiteMED ang nararapat sa inyong karamdaman.

May abot-kayang gamot sa mamahaling sakit.
RiteMED™ Right medicine, priced right.™

Now's your chance to get rid of festive fat twice as fast, twice as powerfully, twice as effectively!

BUY ONE FMS Treatment
GET ONE Physique Treatment

EXTENDED until January 15, 2005*

*Approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3421, Series of 2004

Marie France Bodyline™
www.mariefrance.com
CALL 894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2081 CEBU • TEL 233-7637

Nurses, teachers warned anew …

From page A1

The Department of Labor and Employment yesterday raised anew its warning against unlicensed recruitment agencies.

The different recruiters collected placement fees from 76 nurses and teachers for jobs in US hospitals and schools, the DOLE said, citing reports from the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force.

Taking advantage

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said illegal recruiters were taking advantage of the Philippines' standing as an emerging source of teachers for US public schools in the past two years.

Sto. Tomas said that cunning groups and individuals would lure hopeful applicants into paying huge sums for jobs abroad, particularly in the United States, which has job openings for health workers and teachers.

In October last year, 41 victims, who were assured of jobs in the United States, reported to the task force that they had lost some P4.5 million to illegal recruiters.

Another 19 teachers lost more than P1.6 million to Police Insp. Ferdinand Garcia who promised to give them jobs in various US schools, the DOLE said.

In dollars

Each of the teachers paid Garcia between P24,000 and P125,000 as placement fee. Two even paid him in dollars: $1,300 and $3,500. Garcia was arrested last year.

A certain Julia Lontoc, who was also nabbed by task force agents, collected almost P1 million from nine Filipinos who wanted to work as caregivers in the United States. The victims paid between P15,000 and P360,000 for nonexistent jobs.

Seven Filipino nurses each paid P125,000 to two illegal recruiters, identified as Sesina Tabuzo and Perla de la Cruz, who promised to place them in US hospitals. The two, who were arrested shortly before Christmas, had collected P765,000 from their victims.

Top exporter of nurses

The Philippines is the No. 1 exporter of nurses in the world, with the United States, United Kingdom and Middle East as the top destinations of the health workers.

"The DOLE is always prepared to assist overseas job applicants in verifying employment documents," Sto. Tomas said in a statement yesterday.

She said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Washington D.C. had already validated the employment documents of 188 would-be overseas Filipino workers and allowed 53 principals and employers to hire Filipino teachers here.

The labor secretary advised those who wish to work in the United States to first check the permits of recruitment agencies with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

The Philippines deployed some 860,000 OFWs last year, which is a mere 0.2-percent increase from 2003 figures.

Task force rescues 15 jobseekers

FIFTEEN women, recruited from the provinces for nonexistent jobs in Japan, were rescued last week by the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) under Executive Director Reynaldo Jaylo.

According to a press statement issued by the office of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the victims were rescued during a raid on the office of Great Ways Manpower International Corp. at 2028 Ligaya St., Sta. Ana, Manila on Jan. 4.

PAIRTF arrested Elsa Besangre Bandiala, 36, proprietor of the recruitment firm who had promised to deploy the women as singers and dancers in Japan, Jaylo reported.

The rescue operation was conducted by the task force upon the request of Pimentel in response to complaints from parents of four of the victims, whose ages ranged from 18 to 22.

The statement identified the rescued victims from Villanueva, Misamis Oriental, as Annamae Aviola Echalico, Emily Echalico-Examinada, Maria Eliza Echalico-Examinada and Fefelyn Zayas.

Also rescued were Catherine de la Cerna, Roxan Galdo, Fely Bayotas Chan, Arfelia Duran Paglaluan, Orlyn Alo Tereo, Cindy Maiso Paglinawan, Nenia Maiso Paglinawan, Emelyn Isidro, Roxanne Badilla, Janet Lingo and Naneth Lingo.

The victims from Villanueva were allegedly recruited by a certain Nielyn Bandiala, a relative of Elsa's, and brought to Manila on June 30, 2004.

On Dec. 26, 2004, Echalico, one of the recruits, secretly called up her parents at home, pleading to be rescued as they were being treated like prisoners by their recruiter.

Pimentel commended Jaylo and members of the PAIRTF raiding team for quickly responding to his request and for the safe rescue of the victims of illegal job recruitment.

Task force officer on case Eddie Lotino said criminal charges were being prepared against Elsa Bandiala for violations of the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (Republic Act No. 8042), Anti-Child Abuse Act (RA 7610) and Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (RA 9208).

The raiding team was led by Chief Insp. Emelinda Valverde, Col. Charlie Acosta and PO2 Gerry Opelac.

AN URGENT APPEAL TO HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO TO INTERVENE FOR THE IMMEDIATE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE HACIENDA LUISITA LABOR DISPUTE

For and on behalf of the sugar planters and the other allied workers in the sugar industry, including their dependents in the province of Tarlac, we, the undersigned members of the Board of Directors of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Planters' Association, Inc. (CATPAI) and the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Planters' Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc. (CATPCMAI), hereby reiterate our appeal to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to immediately intercede in the prolonged labor dispute in the Hacienda Luisita.

As you will note Madame President, the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT), which is located inside the Hacienda Luisita, is indeed Luzon's biggest sugar mill and the only one operating in the province of Tarlac. But only about thirty percent (30%) of the sugarcane being milled at the Central Azucarera de Tarlac come from Hacienda Luisita, while the rest come from sugarcane planters spread throughout the province of Tarlac and the neighboring province of Pampanga.

While the striking unions of Hacienda Luisita and the Central Azucarera de Tarlac may have valid causes and that management may have justified reasons in its position, critically at stake in the protracted labor standoff are the families of the sugarcane planters and their workers.

The shut down in the Central Azucarera de Tarlac's milling operations will also have a telling impact on the country's sugar industry. Besides, this also has a crucial effect on the local agricultural sector, for, should the sugarcane planters fail to have their harvests milled, they will sustain untold losses, causing their economic dislocation as well as the collapse of the sugar industry in the province of Tarlac.

Our appeal, Madame President, is urgent as we can no longer afford any further delay, because our normal local weather condition allows the period for harvesting sugarcane, at the latest, only up to the middle part of the month of April, as the rainy season will then start to set in. Beyond this period, the canes would be worthless as the sugar content of the same would have deteriorated.

Madame President, your intercession for an immediate peaceful resolution to the Hacienda Luisita and the Central Azucarera de Tarlac labor disputes is certainly very imperative.

Please do not fail the people who have been always very supportive of Her Excellency. Thank you and more power!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CENTRAL AZUCARERA de TARLAC PLANTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
CENTRAL AZUCARERA de TARLAC PLANTERS COOPERATIVE MKTG. ASSN., INC.

Atty. Marcelino G. Aganon, Jr.
President - CATPAI
Director - CATPCMAI

Mr. Wilfredo Y. Sawit
Director - CATPAI/CATPCMAI

Mr. Rolando R. Pineda
Director - CATPAI/CATPCMAI

Mr. Ramon G. Suarez
Director - CATPAI/CATPCMAI

Mr. Luis Redentor P. Lacsamana
Director – CATPAI

Mr. Clemente B. Flores
Director – CATPAI

Mr. Paul A. Pacheco
Director – CATPAI/CATPCMAI

Mr. Rene R. Limpin
Chairman - CATPCMAI
Director - CATPAI

Mr. Jose P. Lacsamana, Jr.
Director - CATPCMAI

Mrs. Marcelina H. Tiongson
Mrs. Marcelina H. Tiongson
Director - CATPAI/CATPCMAI

Mrs. Dolores L. Cajator
Director - CATPAI

Mrs. Rosario N. Sembrano
Director - CATPAI

Mrs. Lina M. Paredes
Director - CATPCMAI

Mrs. Amelia F. Ponce de Leon
Director - CATPCMAI

Rosebud-Mike fight over money, Ping charges

From page A1

LACSON JESS YUSON

ing threshed out.

The senator, who was interviewed by reporters prior to yesterday's session, also made a wish: "*Ang* wish *ko nga lang ay matuloy ang away nila. Sana lang matuloy ang away* to the end, *sana lang* draw, *pareho patay* (My only wish is for them to continue fighting till the end. I hope it's a draw with both of them dying)."

It was ironic that Lacson was giving advice to Ong, who less than three years ago had accused the former Philippine National Police chief of involvement in high crimes such as kidnapping, drug trafficking, summary executions and money laundering.

At the time, Lacson challenged Ong to back up her charges instead of engaging in rumor-mongering.

However, despite the high-profile Senate inquiry and the media blitz that attended the controversy, the charges against Lacson never prospered in court.

Ong claimed she deserved to collect her agent's fees from the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) which had hired her services for Operations Athena and Cyclops from 1997 to 1999.

But when she sensed that it was Arroyo who was allegedly blocking the release of her fees, she went ballistic, saying that the First Family was indebted to her because she was instrumental in destroying the enemies of the President.

Talk and talk

Now Lacson wants Ong to do nothing but talk.

He said Ong and Arroyo "deserved each other."

"*Kaya nga lumalabas yung totoo, pera ang pinag-uusapan nila. Sa pera din sila nag-aaway* (The truth is finally coming out, it's all about money. They are fighting over money)," he said.

Lacson said he had no knowledge of the agent's fees being claimed by Ong.

"She's claiming that she was my agent under my stewardship. That's a big lie. We never hired her. She was never an agent of PAOCTF. We insisted even during the Senate investigation that she was never an agent of PAOCTF," he said.

Since Arroyo claimed that the P500,000 initially released to Ong was "charity," it was clear that Ong had been hired to "demolish me," said the senator.

"The truth will always catch up with these people," said Lacson, noting that discredited whistle-blower Ador Mawanay—who had accused the senator of owning mind-boggling dollar accounts in the United States—had also identified Arroyo as "the patron."

The patron

"(Arroyo) provided funds and they succeeded in destroying me," said Lacson.

He said Arroyo had been providing money to "sustain (the) lifestyle" of Ong, who reportedly underwent liposuction surgery.

"*Saan manggagaling yun kung hindi sa kanya* (Where would the money come from except from him)," said Lacson.

The senator added that Arroyo and President Macapagal-Arroyo were also behind Blanquita Pelaez, who went against Lacson for refusing to honor a handcuffs deal with the PNP.

Lacson said money allegedly changed hands while Malacañang was "manufacturing all the evidence against me in the US."

He said the tiff between Ong and Arroyo would not prompt the Senate to reopen the Jose Pidal inquiry.

"Who will reopen (it)?" said Lacson, noting that allies of Malacañang dominate the chamber and hold the chairmanships of powerful committees.

"Well, I can file a resolution, but it will end there. Will a Senate investigation be initiated in the first place when (most senators) easily follow the line of the administration?" he said.

Lacson said that in the case of "sin" taxes and the lateral attrition bill, administration senators had demonstrated that they would always indulge the whims of the Malacañang occupant.

Mild quake sends Taal volcano island folk fleeing in panic

A MILD earthquake beneath a small volcano in Taal Lake in Batangas triggered fears of a possible tsunami or eruption but officials on Monday said there was no sign of any danger.

The quake with a magnitude of about 2.0 on the Richter scale shook the volcanic island of Taal at about 7:45 p.m. Sunday, causing some of the 5,000 residents to flee, officials said.

The island residents, however, began to return on Monday, officials said.

Florencio Manimtim, mayor of Talisay City where many had sought refuge, said "their fears were probably worsened by all the news of the tsunamis that hit South Asia so they were very cautious about any calamity."

The quake under Taal volcano, on an island lake some 60 kilometers south of Metro Manila, was volcanic in origin but did not mean an eruption was imminent, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

"At the moment, there are no immediate signs we can relate to an impending eruption," said Bart Bautista, the chief seismologist of the institute.

Bautista said there were no signs of increased steam being emitted by the volcano or of increased temperature in the water in the volcano's crater—two indicators of a coming eruption.

The 311-meter-high volcano last erupted in 1977 but caused little damage. Its last deadly eruption in 1965 killed 200 people, the institute's records showed.

AFP

TSUNAMI DEFENSE

RP has lost 75% of its mangroves

By Carlito Pablo

THE COUNTRY has lost 75 percent of its natural armor against tsunamis—the mangroves.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said that from 450,000 hectares of mangroves in 1918, mangrove cover along coastal areas has declined to 110,000 ha.

From 1951 to 1998, some 278,000 ha of mangroves were cut down to make way for fish ponds, Zubiri said.

Aside from conversion to fish pond areas, mangroves are also being decimated by subsistence wood gatherers and charcoal makers.

"In terms of mangrove loss, the Philippines comes next after China and Indonesia in Southeast Asia, the region which once had a third of the world's mangrove area," Zubiri said.

He also said that as a result of the destruction of mangroves, some 30 tree species, 81 fish species and 20 bird species are threatened due to the loss of their natural habitat along the country's coastlines.

Zubiri undertook a review of the state of the country's mangroves following published findings that the loss of lives and property in Sri Lanka could have been mitigated had the latter's mangrove cover not been destroyed in past years.

COASTAL forests will serve as a shield against tsunamis.

Zubiri called for massive mangrove planting "for the purpose of building a ribbon of coastal forests that will serve as a tsunami shield in this quake-prone country."

"The re-mangroving of coastal areas will not only provide the 815 coastal towns—half of the Philippines' total—with natural wave breakers but also create fish sanctuaries and wildlife sanctuaries as well," he said.

Zubiri also pointed out that mangroves reduce organic pollution by trapping and absorbing toxins.

"They are nature's best water purifiers," he said.

Zubiri said that it is not only rural coastal areas which must engage in mangrove replantation but Manila as well.

"Mangroves are part of our culture. Our premier city Manila was named after 'nilad,' a mangrove specie. Let us bring them back, this time with the added purpose of making them our armor against tsunamis," he said.

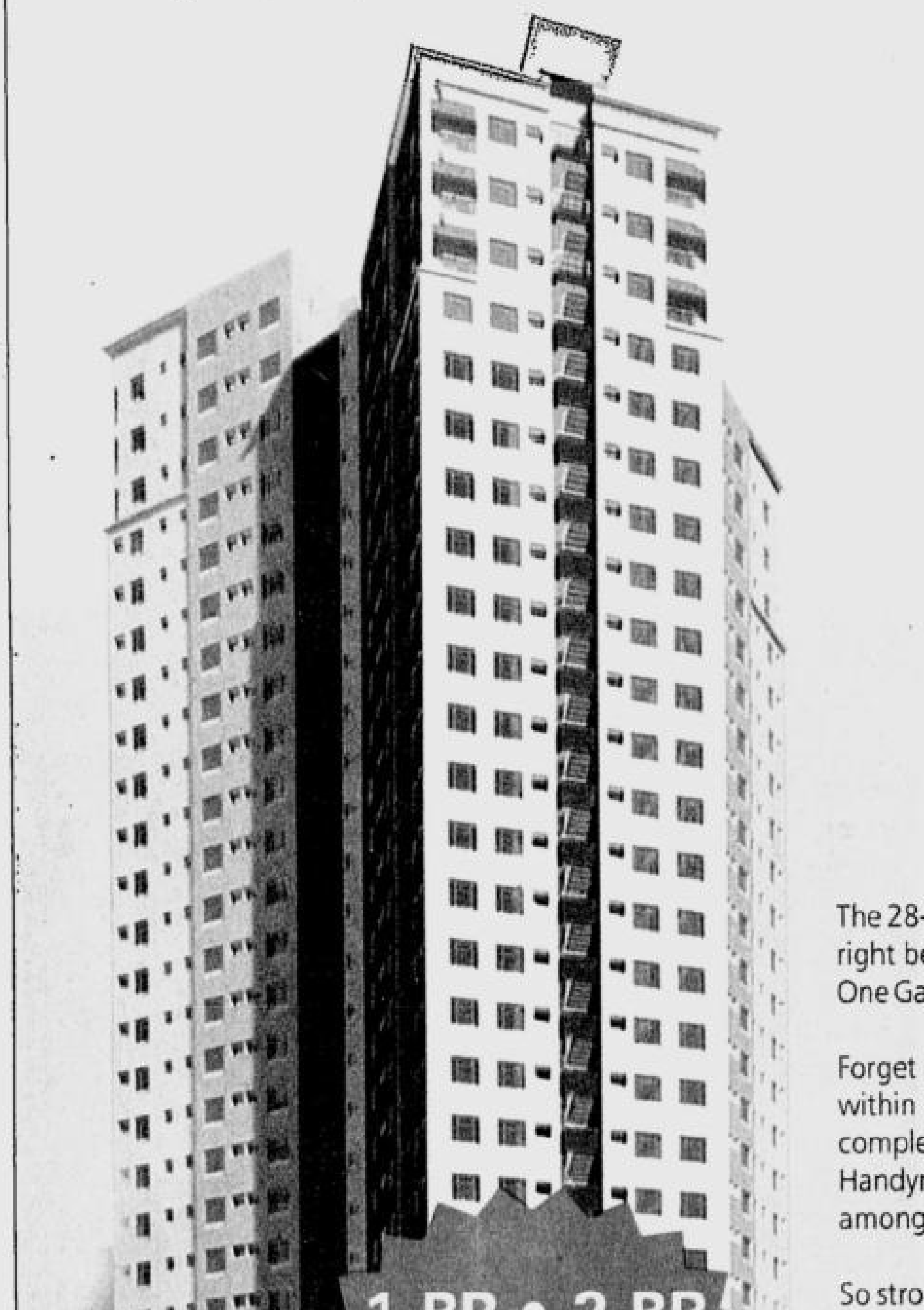
Zubiri said that Sri Lankan as well as Thai officials have expressed misgivings about the loss of mangroves in their tsunami-devastated countries.

"The Philippines should heed the costly lesson of (the) Dec. 26 (tsunami disaster) by making mangroves part of the coastal landscape again," he said.

Zubiri said that from a "vanishing act," mangroves must now start "regreening our tidal flats."

To fund this initiative, Zubiri recommended that "even a miniscule portion" of the P50 billion in expected fresh revenues through new tax measures be allocated for mangrove reforestation.

Zubiri said this project will also provide employment for those who will build mangrove plantations.



1-BR • 2-BR
3-BR UNITS
AVAILABLE

Open House
on February 6, 2005
at the
Project Site

One Gateway Place

28-STOREY RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM
EDSA corner Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Beside Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall

Enjoy the Convenience of Living Beside the Mall

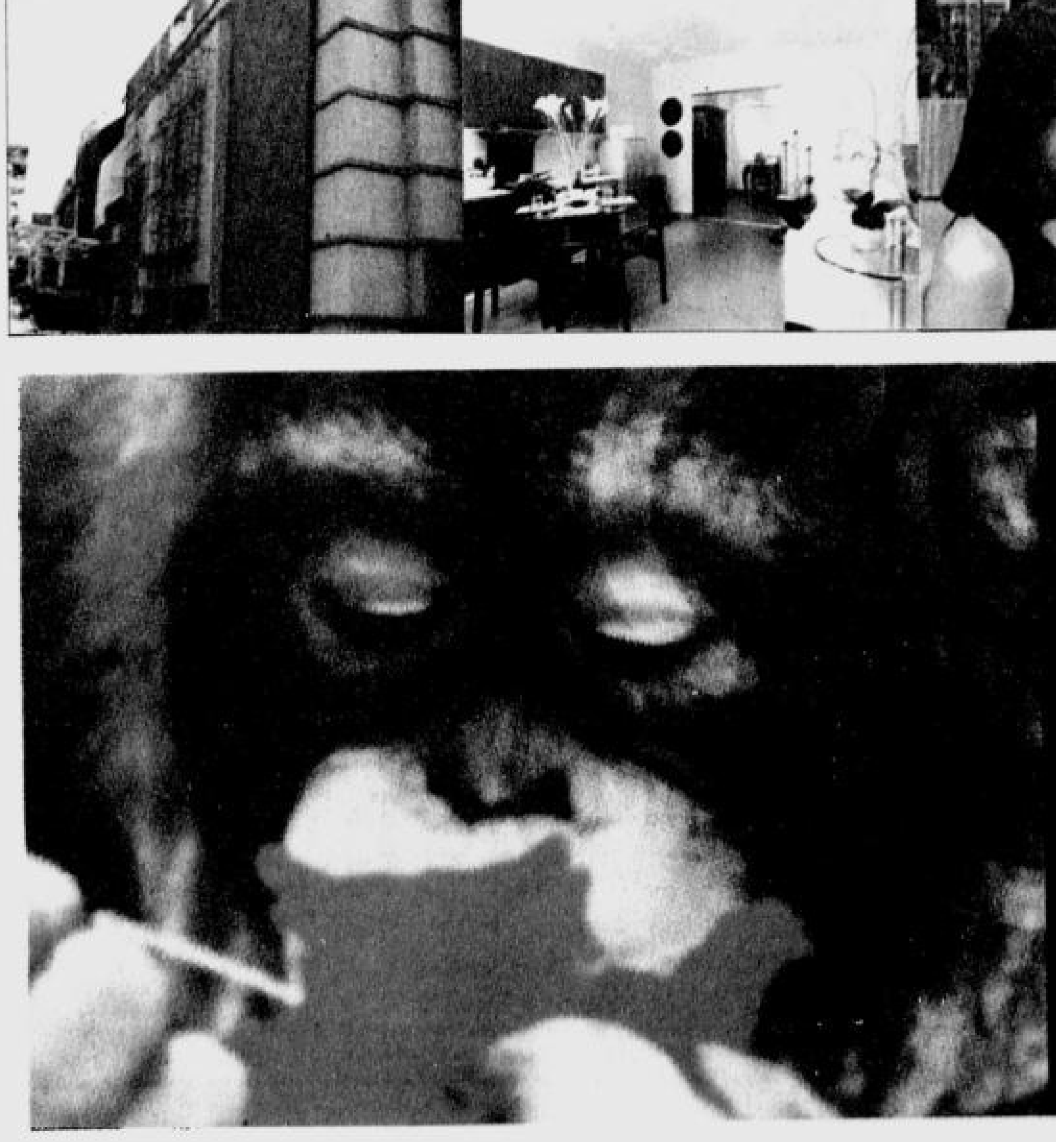
The 28-storey One Gateway Place is strategically located along EDSA corner Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City right between Makati and Ortigas. Its proximity to the MRT Boni Station and the city's major roadways makes One Gateway Place's central location even more unique and practical.

Forget about traffic and pollution. Forget about parking. Because nothing beats the comfort of living in a city within a city. Right beside One Gateway Place is the newly opened Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall where a complete line of products and services are available for residents to enjoy such as: Robinsons Supercenter, Handyman, Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Movieworld and numerous trendy micro retail shops, among others.

So stroll leisurely at the Mall. Relax and unwind. Let go of worry, anxiety, and pressure. There's no need to rush home. At One Gateway Place, home is just a minute away.

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
www.RobinsonsProperties.com.ph
E-mail: properties@rlc.com.ph

636-0888
0922-838-0888



Breakfast with Apes
Lunch with Lions
Dinner with Sharks
Shopping with your Wife

See how different species enjoy their favorite activity!

Get in touch with nature. Call your favorite travel agent now!

UNIQUELY Singapore
visitsingapore.com

Justice quits Estrada trial

From page A1

Sandoval, chair of the first division, which the Supreme Court created more than two years ago to try Estrada, announced his resignation shortly after the morning prayer, catching court officials as well as prosecution and defense lawyers by surprise.

He said he had already written a letter of resignation to the Supreme Court and was awaiting its approval this week. Sandoval, however, remains chair of the second division of the antigraft court.

After stating his reasons for quitting, he moved to postpone the hearing.

Sandoval became the third head of a division trying Estrada to have resigned.

The third division, then under retired Presiding Justice Anacleto Badoy, initially heard Estrada's plunder and perjury charges before the high tribunal created the special division. The Supreme Court had ordered him to go on forced leave in December 2001.

Reward

Sandiganbayan Justice Minita Chico-Nazario was named chair of the special division in 2002. It was Nazario who approved Estrada's trip to the United States on Dec. 23, 2003. She was seconded by associate justices led by De Castro.

Following the approval of Estrada's request to travel abroad on Dec. 1, 2004, Malacañang appointed Nazario to the Supreme Court, raising howls of protest from the private prosecutors who said that the promotion was a reward for Nazario who had drafted the resolution.

Days after approving Estrada's trip to Hong Kong, De Castro was named Sandiganbayan head, beating the senior Sandoval.

Private prosecutors had claimed that the promotion of Nazario and De Castro to juicy posts were rewards for allowing Estrada to undergo knee-replacement surgery abroad and to stay at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal.

Alarmed

Prosecution star witness and Estrada's estranged friend, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, said he was surprised by the turn of events.

"I am saddened by the news and I'm alarmed by what's happening to the judicial system of this country," said Singson, who last month also lashed out at the government for allowing Estrada to leave for Hong Kong.

Singson had told prosecutors that Estrada had pocketed some P4.5 billion in illegal wealth during his 30 months in office. He said the ex-President also ran a protection racket on an illegal numbers game called *jueteng*.

Singson's revelations led to Estrada's impeachment in late 2000, and eventually his removal from office.

The deposed President was later arrested over the corruption allegations and faces life in prison or even the death penalty if convicted.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he was going to miss Sandoval because he had "taken the side of the prosecution on many significant cases," like the house arrest issue and the trip to Hong Kong.

Private prosecutor Leonard de Vera gave this reaction: "Inconsistent court rulings like reversing former rulings and permitting (Estrada's) trip abroad would engender in the hearts of many, including Justice Sandoval, that these may be portents of things to come, definitely not encouraging for the case of the prosecution."

Defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano refused to speculate on Sandoval's decision to quit, but said he should have waited until the Supreme Court had acted on his resignation letter so as not to disrupt the ongoing trial.

Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. said the high court would have to approve Sandoval's resignation.

Humiliated

Defense lawyers said Sandoval's resignation had long been in the air.

"We bumped into him and he told us that he would resign if not appointed (Sandiganbayan presiding justice)," defense lead counsel Rene Saguisag said of their meeting sometime in November, after Nazario was appointed to the Supreme Court and Sandoval was named to her previous post as Sandiganbayan presiding justice in an acting capacity.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Sandoval resigned because he was not named presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan last month.

"He probably felt that he was humiliated because he was not appointed presiding justice. He felt that, out of *delicadeza*, he should resign. This has happened before in the Court of Appeals ... but it is the prerogative of the President to appoint the presiding justice," Gonzalez said.

He said Sandoval should have not felt bad about being overruled by his fellow justices in the special division.

"That does not mean anything. That is a healthy part of the judicial process. Why should he feel bad about his dissenting views?" Gonzalez said.

"Great jurists were often with the minority. Chief Justice (Claudio) Teehankee was with the minority during the martial law years," he said.

Fair to all

In his impromptu talk after announcing his resignation, Sandoval said he was happy that the prosecution panel had brought the matter of Estrada's trip to Hong Kong to the Supreme Court.

He said the move would "enrich jurisprudence" and that he was leaving it up to the high tribunal and history to "render the proper verdict."

"To everybody, I bid you adieu, I shall just return to the second division complacent with the thought that I have done my best and have been fair to all," he said.

But Sandoval's move did not sit well with the defense lawyers, who pointed out that this development would affect Estrada's bid to get an extension of his stay in Hong Kong from Jan. 15 to Jan. 21.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who is back in the country from Hong Kong, had asked for a similar extension.

Interviewed after the hearing, the young Estrada said the defense was filing yesterday an urgent motion for the court to resolve the two issues immediately.

In the absence of a resolution, the elder Estrada will have to return to the country when the deadline for his trip expires on Jan. 15, according to Saguisag.

But then, he said, the former President might stay beyond the court's deadline if his doctors determine that the trip home would adversely affect his newly replaced knees.

Hectic schedule

"Nothing prepared us for this shocking development," Saguisag said, adding that the entry of a new justice would set back the hearing from two weeks to a month.

When he announced his intention to quit, Sandoval did not cite a specific reason, but indirectly revealed it through broadsides against his colleagues who allegedly flip-flopped on Estrada's house arrest and medical trip abroad.

But pressed by reporters yesterday, a smiling Sandoval said he was having problems with the hectic schedule.

He said the morning trial of Estrada two to three times a week and the afternoon trial conducted by the second division, which he also heads, were taking a toll on his health.

"I'm now sickly," he said.

But asked if his move had anything to do with the fact that the Palace bypassed him when it appointed a junior member of the Sandiganbayan as presiding justice, Sandoval replied: "Your guess is as good as mine."

Asked whether his resignation was an act of protest, Sandoval said: "No! No! No! I did not question the power of the Palace to appoint."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the resignation did not concern Malacañang. "That is an internal matter of the Sandigan," he said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Juliet Labog-Javellana, AFP and Reuters*

IN THE KNOW

Justices in Estrada's plunder case:

April 6, 2001: Case No. 26558 or the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada is assigned to the Sandiganbayan third division chaired by Justice Anacleto Badoy after a raffle.

Jan. 21, 2002: Supreme Court designates Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario to head the "special division" that will take over Estrada's cases.

Aug. 12, 2004: The Supreme Court appoints Justice Edilberto Sandoval to lead the Sandiganbayan special division which is handling the plunder case of Estrada.

SOURCE: PDI ARCHIVE

No more 'Mr. Suave' ring tone

From page A1

pointed him to the antigraft court on March 11, 1996.

He was the examiner in criminal law in the 1993 bar exams and in legal ethics in the 1998 bar exams. He wrote two books—"Pointers in Criminal Law" and the "Revised Penal Code Book II."

Born on June 20, 1941 in Mabini, Batangas, he graduated from his law studies at the Far Eastern University in Manila in 1963. He was the class valedictorian.

Sandoval served as the regional trial court judge in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, before then President Corazon Aquino transferred him to Manila on Nov. 6, 1986.

He taught criminal law and was a bar reviewer in Manila's top law schools, including Ateneo de Manila University, San Beda College, Arellano University, FEU, Manuel L. Quezon University, University of Santo Tomas, University of Manila and the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Manila.

He is married to Pelagia Sandoval, an elementary school principal. They have three children.

His parents were both public school teachers—Epifanio and Francisca Sandoval.

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?

It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology Therabreath System™ a U.S. product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.*
Bad Breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue & throat not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work. Free use of *Halimeter* to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition.

Free delivery w/in Metro Manila
Money back guarantee
Tel: 890-8380; 895-5532; 897-2466
Cel# 0917-7965859; 0919-5109455

SAVE UP TO P21,000 SLIMMERS WORLD

GREAT BODIES 2004 WINNERS

CARLOS MORALES Lost 26 lbs. on his programme.
KAREN VILLANUEVA Lost 32 lbs. on her programme.
BUILD OR LOSE! ARMS 10 - 20 cm
FOREARMS 5 - 10 cm
ABS 20 - 50 cm
THIGHS 20 - 50 cm
1 INCH 2 3 8 9 10

ONLY P40 PER DAY

No monthly dues, no joining fees on Full Programmes.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.
NO INTEREST! MONTHLY DUES! JOINING FEES!
Only for callers today.

BIO DYNAMICS
Our medically proven weight loss system developed and researched at Tufts University, USA. Lose 10 - 20 lbs of fat in 6 weeks WITH A MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

FITNESS HOTLINE 8873533 CELLPHONE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

SLIMMERS WORLD FACE, SKIN & COSMETIC CENTERS
PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL
Get rid of unwanted hair forever at lowest price in the Philippines.
BODY SCRUB & MILKBATH
A pampering and exfoliating treatment that leaves you refreshingly clean.
FREE SKIN WHITENING on Full Programmes. Only for callers today.
CONSULTATION with our In-House Dermatologist.
OTHER TREATMENTS: AQUAMID BOTOX RESTYLANE PERLANE FACIAL ULTRAPEEL WART REMOVAL LASER ACNE TREATMENT NUTRACELL - FACE SKIN WHITENING
SKIN HOTLINE 8871331 CELLPHONE 09164099312

CALL US: www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	TRAFALGAR
Gemma	Thelma/Jannah	Sherry/Bheng	Ramil	Blanca	Lani	Daisy	Sheila/Jenny	Cher/Maan	Fiona/Muffet	Mitch	Beth	Ice
2F RCBC Bldg.	3F Regina	6F Panorama	Basement 1&2	27F Atlanta Ctr.	GF Zeta Bldg.	6F Adriatico Square	2F Bldg. A	1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St.	Restaurant Ave.	2F Annex Bldg.	2F Times Square	28F Trafalgar Plaza
Zapote-Alabang Rd.	Garden II	Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Ayala Center	#31 Annapolis	Salcedo St.	Adriatico, Manila	Mandaluyong	887-1335	Marcos Hi-way	Quezon City	Rizal Hi-way	H V dela Costa
809-0396	242-1312	365-7653	231-3254	726-6505	893-8935	536-0619	631-3869	09178515920	681-5333	929-5429	252-6514	814-0138

SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112732 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

FOOD
MODEL
PRODUCT

Professional **Photography** for

Packaging, Poster, Banner, Flyer, Catalog, Brochure, Newspaper Ad, Menu, Billboard, Transit Ads

We also do:
Conceptualization, Art Direction, Brand Building, Print & Radio Ads.

Paragon

278 unit 2b Del Monte Ave. Q.C. • 413-2652 / 411-1103

IWATA ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW

BUNDY CLOCKS
CW-1A P12,850
E2A P9,500
CH-1A P9,300
- 1/2color ribbon, int/ext melody, 6cols printing
- operates during brownouts

PROJECTOR
IWATA-1E P4,895

HAND DRYER
TEW PUSH BUTTON P5,300 AUTOMATIC P6,200

RECHARGEABLE SPOTLIGHT
250,000 C.P. P899
500,000 C.P. P999
1MILLION C.P. P1,099

PAPER SHREDDER CROSS CUT
Can shred CD's, Credit Cards & Staple Wire
S-1500 P8,600
S-058 P7,800
15's (capacity) 7's
4x38mm (shred size) 2x15mm

MINERAL WATER POT
5 Steps Filtration
15Lits. caps
P1,495

SEALERS IMPULSE & DIRECT
HAND SEALER 8" : P575 4" : P470
14" FOOT SEALER P8,900

LAMINATOR
12" - P6,350 / 15" - P7,950
6.2" - 2,850 / 8.5" - 3,500

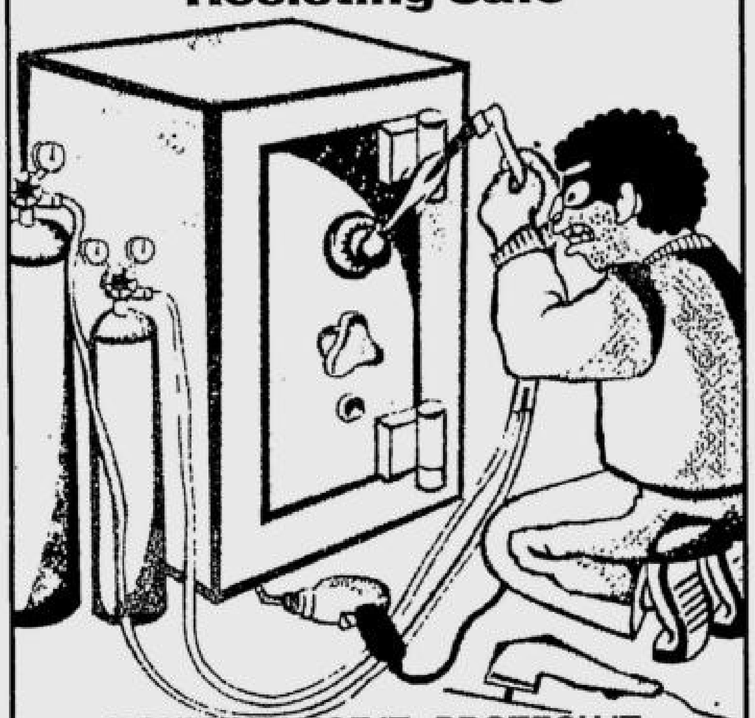
IWATA INDUSTRIAL FAN
HEAVY DUTY 3 STEEL BLADES
30" Diameter
P3,890

FOR INQ: COLENT ENT. CO.
412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8138/39/40, 742-8142, 411-2396 TO 98
TELEFAX: 411-2395 FAX: 411-2399

PROtech

CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL
ISO 9001:2000
CIP/3061/02/07/301

APOLLO SERIES
World Class Burglar Resisting Safe



DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.

PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment
www.protech.com.ph

HEAD OFFICE:
2643-U Taft Ave., Pasay City, MM
Tels. 833-3622 • 833-1246 • 831-0648
551-4809 • 551-7869
Fax: (632) 831-2961
E-mail: protech@philonline.com

CEBU OFFICE:
Escario St. cor. Don Mariano Cui St.
Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. (032) 255-6384
Telefax (032) 254-6301
E-mail: protechc@mozcom.com

DAVAO OFFICE:
Unit-B Atty. Fanlo Compound
Padre Gomez St., Davao City
Tel. (082) 221-5021
Cell No. 0912-8885852
E-mail: protechd@mozcom.com

NU/HART, A WORLD LEADER IN HAIR RESTORATION NOW IN MANILA

BEFORE AFTER

Now, you can say Good-bye to Hair Loss. Nu/Hart Hair Clinics, a world leader in hair restoration, is now open in Manila, offering its proven breakthrough procedures and American medical expertise to reverse hair loss using your own natural hair.

With over 50 years of combined surgeon experience and 15 years in business, Nu/Hart has performed over 25,000 individual hair restoration procedures on clients, both male and female, from over 40 countries at its 11 offices in the U.S. and overseas.

Call or visit us now for a
FREE CONSULTATION.
638-6000
26/F Wynsum Plaza, 22 Emerald Ave., Ortigas
(Behind Discovery Suites)
visit our website at www.nuhart.com
or email us at manila@nuhart.com

Unlike hair pieces and wigs, Nu/Hart's hair transplant solution is:
- Permanent and growing
- Natural
- Maintenance-free
- Affordable (Easy Payment Plans)
- No monthly visits
- No ongoing expenses.

NU/HART
HAIR CLINIC

There's a new you waiting at Nu/Hart.

Manila • New York • Chicago • Atlanta • Pittsburgh
Philadelphia • Denver • Puerto Rico • Dubai

Restore your defective equipment at Affordable Cost!

We Specialize in
LAPTOP & FAX REPAIRS

We also repair:
- PC's • Printer • Monitors
- Electronic Typewriters
- UPS • Shredders & Others

FOR MULTI-USERS AVAIL OF OUR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Best in Customer Satisfaction -Samsung Electronics AWARDED

BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc.
Ortigas Center Makati/Manila

687-6425/687-4213/817-0977/817-0917

TUTORING
A comprehensive and effective approach to understand the working mathematical principles quickly.

★★ QUICK MATH ★★
(Speed Math Development)

Arithmetic, Statistics, Calculus, Accounting, Eng'ng Math, Quantitive Analysis, Algebra, Plain, Solid, and Analytical Geometry, Trigo, Chemistry, Physics. English & Academics,
with our expert tutors at your home or at our center.

EXPANCE STUDY CARE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
☎ 5306933 / 5308671 / 5264536 . 38 Loc. 14 & 20

SPEECHPOWER

JANUARY FEBRUARY-MARCH 2005

High-paying jobs demand...
☐ English Proficiency
☐ Confident Personality
☐ Positive Work Attitude

Join our
– FREE SAMPLE LESSONS –
TODAY
Speechpower - España
Jan 12 - Wed SP-Taft
3:00 - 5:00 PM ; 6:00 - 8:00 PM

For more details, call:

☎ Cubao
•911-0832
•911-0833
•911-0834

☎ España
•735-7256
•735-7262
•735-7312

☎ Taft
•521-3601
•525-5310

www.speechpower.com.ph

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOBMarket ONLINE

TANO "YOUR PARTNER IN PRODUCT & SERVICE EXCELLENCE"

BILL COUNTERS
- Quiet Operation (<60 dB)
- W/ External Display
- Speed: 900 notes/ min.

CHECK WRITERS
- 10-Digit • W/ calculator
- Perforated Printing
- Heavy Duty

LAMINATORS
- Variable Temperature
- 4 Heavy duty rollers
- Forward & reverse control

MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
- 120 copies per minute
- Electric & Manual Operation
- Adjustable Printing Position
- Pre-set Counter

PAPER SHREDDERS
- NS-C2X2 Shred size: 2x2mm
- NS-C2X6 Shred size:2x6mm
- NS-C2X14 Shred size: 2x14mm

WIRE & PLASTIC BINDING MACHINES
Plastic Comb Binder
- 21 Holes / A4 size
- Adjustable Margin Depth

BUNDY CLOCKS
- Two color printing
- W/ Musical Melody
- Auto Card Feed
- Auto Column Shifting
- Back-up Power
- Heavy Duty

Wire Binder CB 200W
- 34 Holes / A4 size
Also Available: 40 holes /14"

- 450 sheets binding capacity
- 25 sheets punching capacity
- 24 Holes
BH-C24 / C24D
BH-9800BA

CALL NOW AT: 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327
8967764 • 8983431 • 8983432
E-mail ad.: sales@e-davidlink.com
Website: www.e-davidlink.com

A MUST IN EVERY BUSINESS!

Elite
Mitho Plus
Optima
Silver Jet

We Offer
The World's Most Trusted
High Pressure Washers
& Vacuum Cleaners!

* Hose Reel Optional

With AFTER SALES SERVICE

FROM THE 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS

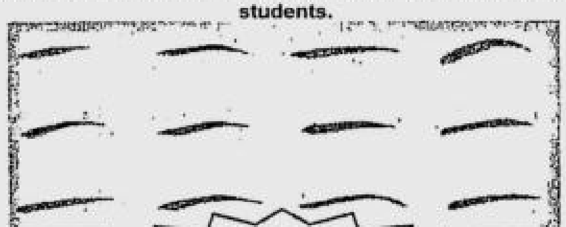
Exclusively Distributed By:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED

Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
MAIN OFFICE:1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

Start 2005 with your own new business!!!

Aesthetic Tattoo Course

Prettylooks Hi-Tech Beauty Center For Men and Women, the pioneer and leading frontrunner in the Aesthetic Industry is now accepting students.



Learn to create the 12 most desired eyebrows perfectly!!!

For only P10,000, you'll have a first hand three day training seminar with Susan Ong, Awarded 1992 Asia's #1.
Seminars will be held every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1 to 5pm

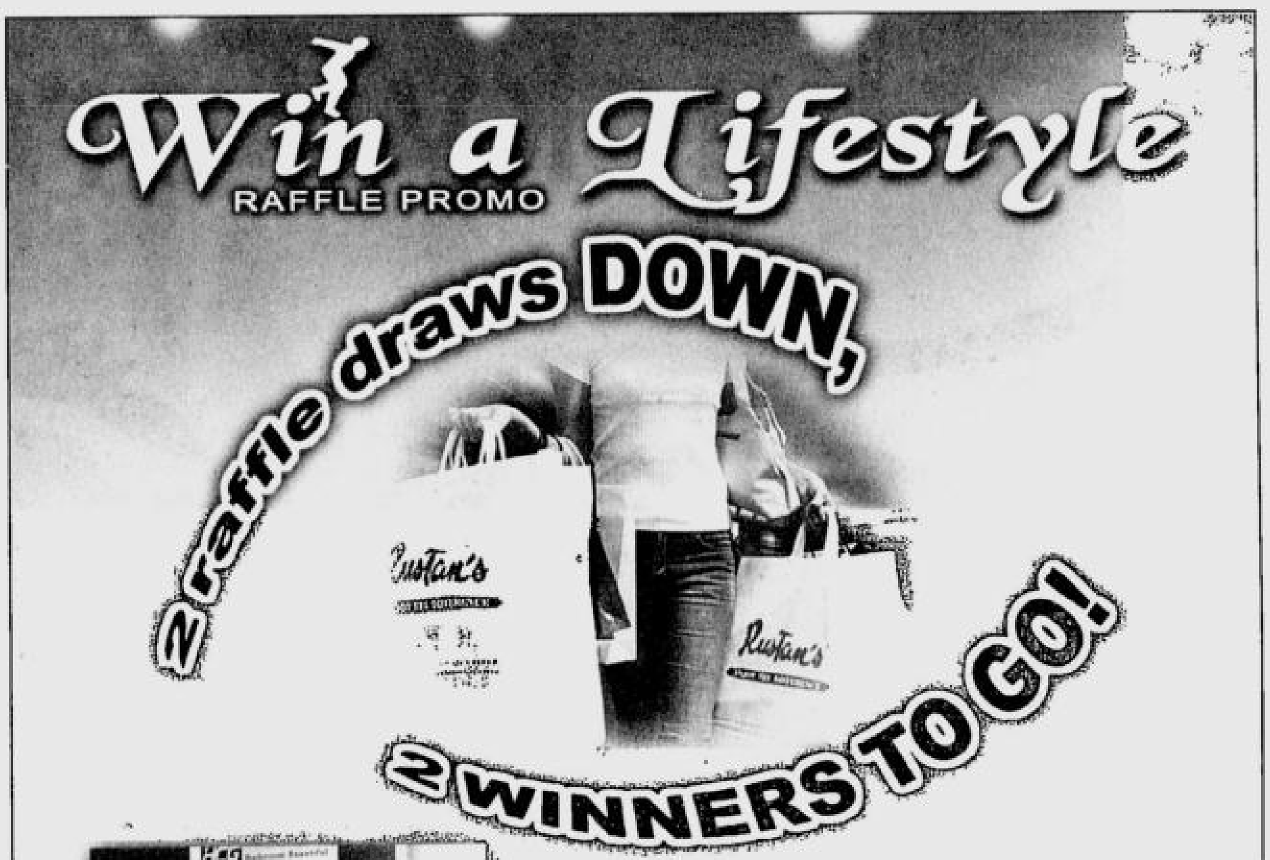
Enroll now!!!

PRETTYLOOKS
Hi-Tech Beauty Center For Men and Women

Interested parties may inquire at
Tel.Nos.:687-7507;687-5098
Ground Floor UG7 city and Land Mega Plaza
1907 ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(in Front of Holiday Inn formerly Galleria Suite across the east wing of Robinsons Galleria)
email: prettylooksortigas@yahoo.com

Ms. Susan Ong
Asia's No 1 and Master Instructor of Aesthetic Tattoo

Win a Lifestyle
RAFFLE PROMO

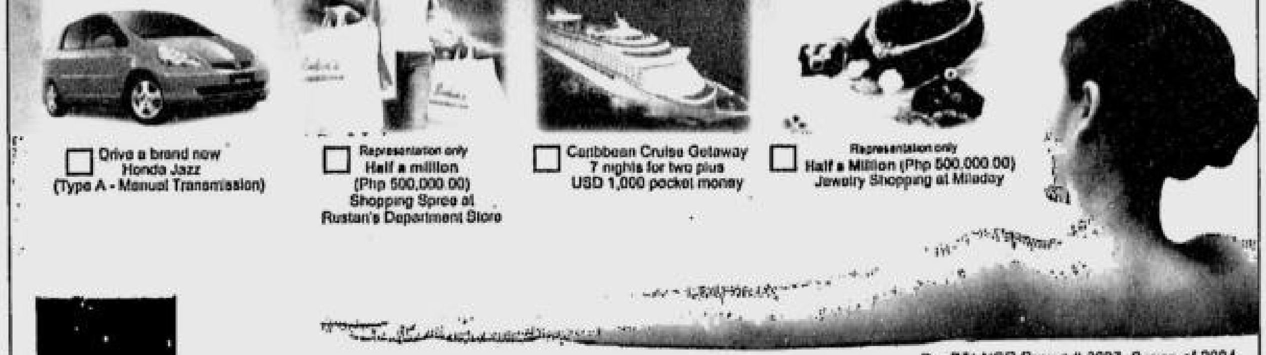


HCG
Get a chance to pick and win your dreams!

Congratulations to
MR. ARNIE TOTILLA
102 Sanchez, Asingan Pangasinan
winner of HALF A MILLION (Php 500,000) shopping spree at Rustan's Department Store (Jude Co Builders)

2 winners have picked and lived the lifestyle of their choice!
2 more will get a chance to win their dream lifestyle!

HURRY! Be one of them!
Visit an HCG branch today and live the life you want.



☐ Drive a brand new Honda Jazz (Type A - Manual Transmission)
☐ Representation only Half a million (Php 500,000.00) Shopping Spree at Rustan's Department Store
☐ Caribbean Cruise Getaway 7 nights for two plus USD 1,000 pocket money
☐ Representation only Half a Million (Php 500,000.00) Jewelry Shopping at Milady

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2007, Series of 2004

HCG Bathroom Beautiful

HONDA Rustan's Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL milady jewels

voted by readers
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004

SUPERBRAND HALL OF FAME

voted by readers
SUPER BRAND GOLD
Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999

PILOT
Experience the Ultimate writing instrument

V5&V7 Hi-Tecpoint

PILOT HI-TECPOINT V5 Fine

BX-V5
BX-V7
Unique stainless steel pen tip with a micro ball in the tip made writing Ultimate Smooth

Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

Abbas wins Palestinian polls; hopes for peace talks raised

RAMALLAH, West Bank—The victory of Mahmoud Abbas in Palestinian elections raised hopes on Monday for reviving talks with Israel after the relative moderate won a landslide in the vote to succeed Yasser Arafat.

In another sign of change in the Middle East, a new Israeli government was expected to take office with a mission to give up occupied Gaza, uprooting Jewish settlers for the first time from some land where Palestinians want a state.

But any optimism for a new era of diplomacy will still be vulnerable to militants defying Abbas' calls to end armed struggle. Meanwhile, neither Palestinians nor Israelis show room for compromise on fundamental issues behind decades of conflict.

Abbas claimed victory on Sunday after exit polls showed he had won 65 percent of the vote in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem—as big a margin as any been expected.

Turnout looked healthy despite a boycott call by Islamic militants, strengthening his mandate for change.

He had promised to seek peace with Israel, but also to battle widespread corruption and revive the crumbling Palestinian Authority—the legacy of four years of debilitating violence and Arafat's chaotic rule.

"Victory is beautiful but it will be more beautiful to fulfill the pledges," said Abbas, candidate of the dominant Fatah movement. "The smallest *jihad* (holy struggle) is over and the biggest jihad is ahead."

Final election results are expected on Monday and Abbas is due to be sworn in on Wednesday, officials said. The closest of six other candidates was pro-democracy activist Mustafa Barghouthi with about 20 percent of the vote.

International monitors said the ballot appeared to have been fair despite some Israeli restrictions on movement.

US President George W. Bush praised the election as an essential step to statehood and offered Abbas his help in a new push for peace, while calling on Israel to improve the humanitarian situation for Palestinians.

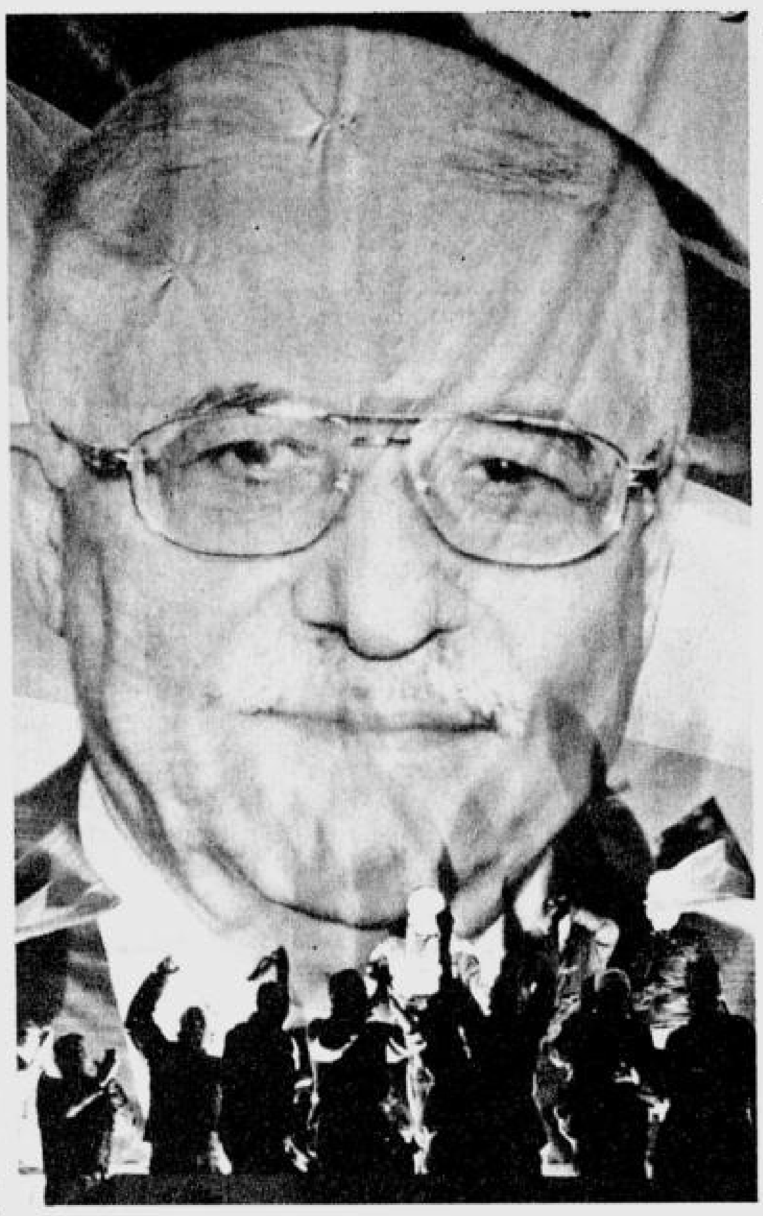
Israel sees Abbas as a man to do business with, but has criticized his intention to co-opt rather than confront militants and insists on an end to Palestinian attacks before real discussion of statehood.

The militant Islamic group Hamas said it could work with Abbas, but questioned his real margin of victory.

Fighters sent a clear message of strength during the election by firing rockets into Israel.

"The main challenges are still ahead. Will he fight against terrorists and try to stop the bloody war against the state of Israel?" said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's deputy Ehud Olmert.

Israeli officials have said that Sharon, who accused Arafat of fomenting violence and shunned him for years, would seek a meeting with Abbas in days. But Abbas aides said he wanted assurances that it would be more than a photo opportunity. *Reuters*



SUPPORTERS of Mahmoud Abbas celebrate under a huge portrait of their presidential candidate after the close of voting in the West Bank city of Ramallah Jan. 9. REUTERS

Victims of Gulf War overpaid by $5 billion by UN, auditors find

GENEVA—The United Nations overpaid by as much as $5 billion to individuals, companies and Gulf states for losses in Iraq's 1990 invasion and occupation of Kuwait, auditors' documents showed on Sunday.

The 19 internal audits of the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) were posted on its website a day before a total of 56 audits were to be made public by an independent panel led by former US Federal Reserve chair Paul Volcker.

Senior UNCC officials strongly denied any overpayment and dismissed the auditors' conclusions, saying they had exceeded their mandate by delving into legal issues.

Volcker's panel is investigating the oil-for-food program that the United Nations operated for Saddam Hussein's Iraq when the country was under international sanctions. The US Congress is probing alleged corruption in the programme.

The 19 audits of the Geneva-based UNCC, carried out by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) from July 1997 to December 2004, do not identify any corruption.

But the audits raised questions, mainly about evidence in approving awards for damages, and concluded overpayments had been made. Along with exchange rate and other issues, the audits pointed to a total overpayment of some $5 billion, officials said.

The UNCC said it had issued the audits after being tipped the Volcker panel was going to make them public without including the UNCC's responses to each audit's findings.

"Our goal is to show that the Office of Internal Oversight Services' audits have been easily rebutted," said UNCC deputy executive secretary Mike Raboin.

"Since we are not part of oil-for-food, we are at a loss as to why these documents were given to the Volcker committee."

The UNCC also posted a confidential decision by UN legal counsel Hans Corell, who ruled in November 2002 that the UN auditors had gone "beyond the proper scope of audit" by trying to reopen legal issues.

The UNCC was set up by the UN Security Council in 1991 to compensate individuals, companies and governments for losses from Iraq's invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

It has received claims totaling $350 billion and to date has approved $51.8 billion in compensation.

Compensation is awarded after neutral panels of experts examine claims and make recommendations on payment. These amounts must be endorsed by the UNCC's Governing Council, comprising the same 15 member states as the Security Council.

"The Governing Council has consistently taken the position that substantive decisions are not within the purview of the OIOS auditors," said UNCC spokesperson Joe Sills. *Reuters*

Philippine Airlines welcomes the Year of the Rooster with

Lucky Fares

Manila to:
Butuan
Cagayan de Oro
Davao
or Zamboanga
or vice-versa
P1888
One-way fare

Manila to:
Bacolod
Cebu
Iloilo
Kalibo
or Tacloban
or vice-versa
P888
One-way fare

Manila to:
Puerto Princesa
or Tagbilaran
or vice-versa
P1288
One-way fare

Manila to Roxas
or vice-versa
P788
One-way fare

Fare conditions apply.
Fares valid from January 10 to March 15, 2005 only.
Book early, seats are limited.

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience

For bookings and inquiries, please call PAL reservations Manila (02) 855-8888 • Cebu (032) 340-0191 • Davao (082) 222-0366. Visit the nearest PAL Ticket Office or travel agent.

US troops kill Iraq civilians 'by mistake'

BAGHDAD—US troops mistakenly killed two Iraqi policemen and two bystanders near a checkpoint just hours after an American warplane exacted a heavy civilian toll when it bombed the wrong house, Iraqi officials said on Sunday.

The back-to-back incidents on Saturday fueled anti-American anger over the deaths of innocents during a raging insurgency just three weeks before Iraq's first election since US-led forces toppled former President Saddam Hussein.

Residents said 14 people, including children, were killed in a strike in the northern village of Aaytha. They showed visitors 14 freshly dug graves. The military, making a rare admission of error in its fight against guerrillas, said five people died when a 500-pound bomb flattened the house.

Shortly afterwards, a US military convoy was hit by a roadside bomb blast near a police checkpoint south of Baghdad in a lawless area known as the "Triangle of Death."

Troops escorting the vehicles struck back but at the wrong target, interior ministry spokesperson Adnan Abdul-Rahman said. Two police officers and two civilians were killed. He said a fifth Iraqi suffered a heart attack and died at the scene.

The military expressed regret and launched an investigation into the bombing at Aaytha, near the restive city of Mosul, but had no immediate comment on the convoy attack near Yusufiya.

Many Iraqis voiced resentment at what they call heavy-handed military tactics and callousness toward mounting civilian deaths, sentiment that has dented US efforts to win hearts and minds and get the country behind the Jan. 30 ballot.

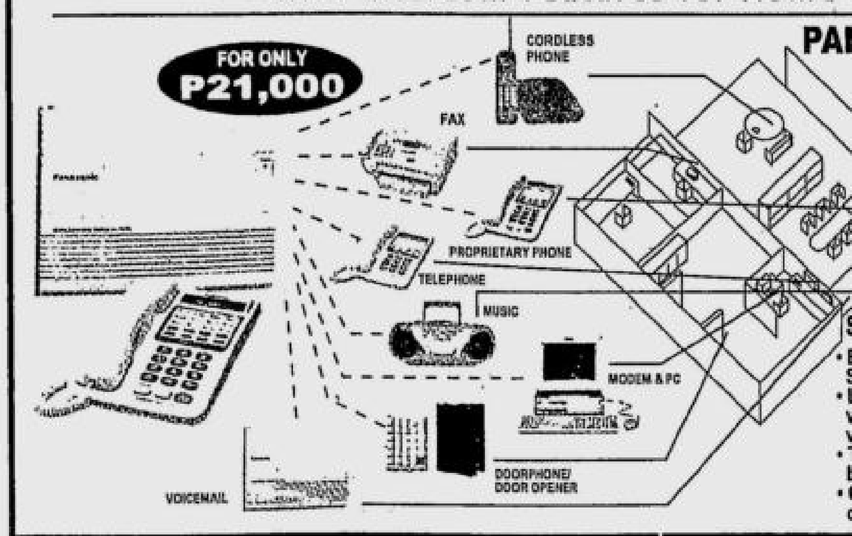
"Why did these poor people have to die?" lamented Baghdad taxi driver Doraid Abdul Khaliq, 28. "Bombing, shooting and running a tank over cars have all become something normal."

US officials insist American forces do their utmost to avoid civilian casualties but say Sunni-led insurgents trying to disrupt the election mount many attacks from populated areas. *Reuters*

The Ideal **Telephone System**
with Intercom Features for Home & Office

PANASONIC

FOR ONLY
P21,000



Specifications:
- Brand new hybrid System
- Legally sourced with one (1) year warranty
- Type approved by PLDT
- Caller's ID capability

HEADSTART
GROUND FLR., DE LA MERCED BLDG., (beside Delta Thtr.)
QUEZON AVE., corner WEST AVE., Q.C. Tel. No.: 371-2456 to 58
371-2912 / 2907 / 2908 / 2449 • Fax : 410-5042

Authorized:
National Panasonic
Dealer & Service Center

Most Advanced Hearing Aid Technology
from SIEMENS

Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals

- Virtually invisible, all digital
- No unwanted background noise
- Crystal clear speech recognition

MAKATI
Suite 1703 Medical Plaza
cor. Amorsolo & Dela Rosa Sts.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No.: 867-1916

ORTIGAS
Level 3, Body Senses
Robinsons Galleria,
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave.,
Quezon City
Tel. No.: 635-9033

QUEZON CITY
G/F, Unit G-18A
The Garden Heights
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.,
Quezon City
Tel. No.: 727-6625

Hearing Solutions from Siemens

Real Fibre... a Winner

ORIGINAL
C-Lium
FIBRE
NATURAL & ORGANIC

2004
ANNUAL AWARDS
2004

National Shopper's Choice
2004 Award

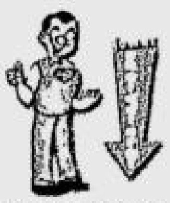
No.1 Natural & Organic
Fiber Supplement

NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE 2004 AWARD
AWARD REWARD
Get 33% more...
now 200g
Plus 3 Sachets FREE
SAME PRICE BONUS!!!
Thanks for your support
No.1 NATURAL & ORGANIC FIBER SUPPLEMENT

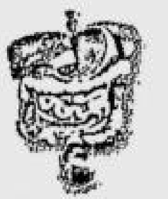
100% Natural & Organic,
no additives, no sweeteners, no artificial flavours, no cholesterol, gluten free.

helps eliminate constipation

helps reduce weight


helps reduce cholesterol

helps reduce the risk of heart disease


helps blood sugar control

helps prevent sickness

Psyllium husk is endorsed by:
National Heart Foundation
American Heart Foundation
ATKINS
THE SOUTH BEACH DIET
HALAL
SAFE QUALITY FOOD 2000 CERTIFIED SGS0 01310 HACCP Approved

C-Lium©Fibre
For a healthier stomach.

AVAILABLE FROM:
mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
AND OTHER LEADING DRUGSTORES
Watsons
AND OTHER DRUGSTORES

E-mail: cliumfibre@pacific.net.ph Website: www.cliumfibre.com

RECOMMENDED BY GASTROENTEROLOGISTS, MEDICAL AND HEALTH PRACTITIONERS.
TXT 4 INFO: LUZON 09167410346 • VISAYAS 09102932635 • MINDANAO 09212600228

WELCOME 2005!
UNBEATABLE OFFERS
UNPARALLELED DEALS

Anson
EMPORIUM

APPLIANCE
INSTALLMENT
SHOWDOWN
GLORIETTA
ACTIVITY CENTER
JANUARY 10-25, 2005

FREE! ANSON GIFT CERTIFICATES
ON GREAT SELECTIONS

SAMSUNG • JVC • PANASONIC • PHILIPS • CARRIER • CONDURA
KELVINATOR • LA GERMANIA • FISHER & PAYKEL • WHIRLPOOL • FEDDERS
KOPPEL • GE • ARISTON • ELBA • TCL • KOLIN • HITACHI • TOSHIBA
UNI-AIR • POLYTRON • AMERICAN HOME • KODAK • CANON • NEXT BASE
AUDIOVOX • CAMEL • GREENMAR COMPUTERS MKTG. • TIMEX • PROMAC
FUKUDA • MAGIC SING • TECHNOWORLD MKTG. • GAMELORD • JBL FURNITURE
J & A MKTG. • JERM MKTG. • IMPERIAL MOTOR SALES

BPI CREDIT CARDS • CITIBANK PAYLITE
UNIONBANK VISA • EQUITABLE CARD NETWORK
STANDARD CHARTERED • HSBC • DINERS
METROBANK MASTER & VISA • BANKARD MY DREAM JCB • AIG

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 5976 Series of 2004

PLUS! A CHANCE TO WIN ANY OF OUR 50
MAJOR AND/OR MINOR APPLIANCES
RAFFLE DAZZLE OF PRIZES

PROMO PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2004 - APRIL 30, 2005 SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS
PER DTI-NCR Permit #1010 Series of 2004

Anson
EMPORIUM

WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!

VISIT OUR BRANCHES AT :
ANSON BUILDING, AYALA CENTER A. ARNAIZ ST., MAKATI CITY
TEL. NOS.: 843-6046 / 892-2200 / 892-1392
3RD FLOOR THE LANDMARK
TEL. NOS.: 810-9990 LOC. 2106, 2107 / 819-1613-14 / 819-1354 / 817-0241
ROBINSONS GALLERIA EDSA NODE LEVEL-3
TEL. NOS.: 632-9479 / 632-9482-85
800 SALAZAR ST., BINONDO, MANILA
TEL. NOS.: 243-2097 / 2432101 / 243-2092
ALABANG TOWN CENTER MADRIGAL AVE., (Beside BPI)
TEL. NOS.: 772-3680-80

FOR YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS AND CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS,
LOOK FOR DEXTER, TESSIE, FROILAN or DONG
TEL. NOS.: 845-3006-08 / 892-1357 / Fax: 892-1398
ANTHONY & CECILE (THE LANDMARK)
TEL NOS 819-0701 / 819-1354 / 817-0241 OR 16 Fax: 819-0702

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 34

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪Advertising 897-4807
▪Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Heating up

EDITORIAL

THE RECENT tsunami disaster, the fatal heat wave in Europe in 2003 and the stronger and more violent storms that have hit various parts of the earth in the past four or five years should set the world thinking about the abrupt climate and geological changes and what could be done about them.

Scientists are agreed: Global warming and climate change are no longer in the realm of computer forecasts; they are very much upon us. Among the signs of these changes are:

- The heating up of the world—the temperature has risen 1 degree F over the past century. The 1990s was the warmest decade and 1998 was the warmest year on instrumental record.
- The melting of glaciers and breaking up of ice shelves. Snow cover and ice extent have decreased by about 10 percent since the late 1960s.
- The rise in sea level. The rate of global average sea level rise during the 20th century is in the range of 1 to 2 millimeters per year, with a central value of 1.5 mm/year.
- Increase in global ocean heat content since the late 1950s, the period for which adequate observation of subsurface ocean temperatures have been available.
- A shift in seasons: shorter winters, the earlier arrival of spring, hotter summers and fiercer heat waves and the later arrival of autumn. (The heat wave in Europe in 2003 killed 35,000 people.)
- Longer periods of drought. Warmer episodes of El Niño have been more frequent, persistent and intense since the mid-1970s, compared with the previous 100 years.
- The drying up of rivers and streams, shrinking of lakes and the erosion of the coasts.
- The bleaching and dying of coral reefs, depriving fish of habitats. 1998 was the worst year on record, when 16 percent of the world's coral was left bleached or dead.
- Changes in the animal kingdom: habitats change, plants flower earlier, birds nest earlier, exotic species appear and amphibians are disappearing.
- The fast spread of diseases.
- Changes in the intensity and frequency of storms. Conflicting analyses, however, make it difficult to draw definitive conclusions, especially on extra-tropical or hurricane activity.

These data are telling scientists—and us—that the earth is definitely heating up and that climate is changing. Scientists agree that the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal causes greenhouse gases to escape into the air and these gases are causing most of the global warming. Another major cause is deforestation, for trees absorb carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases, from the air.

Global warming is very difficult to solve. It is very easy to say that everyone should use less energy, but a growing, developing world requires the use of more energy, and fossil fuels, particularly, at this time.

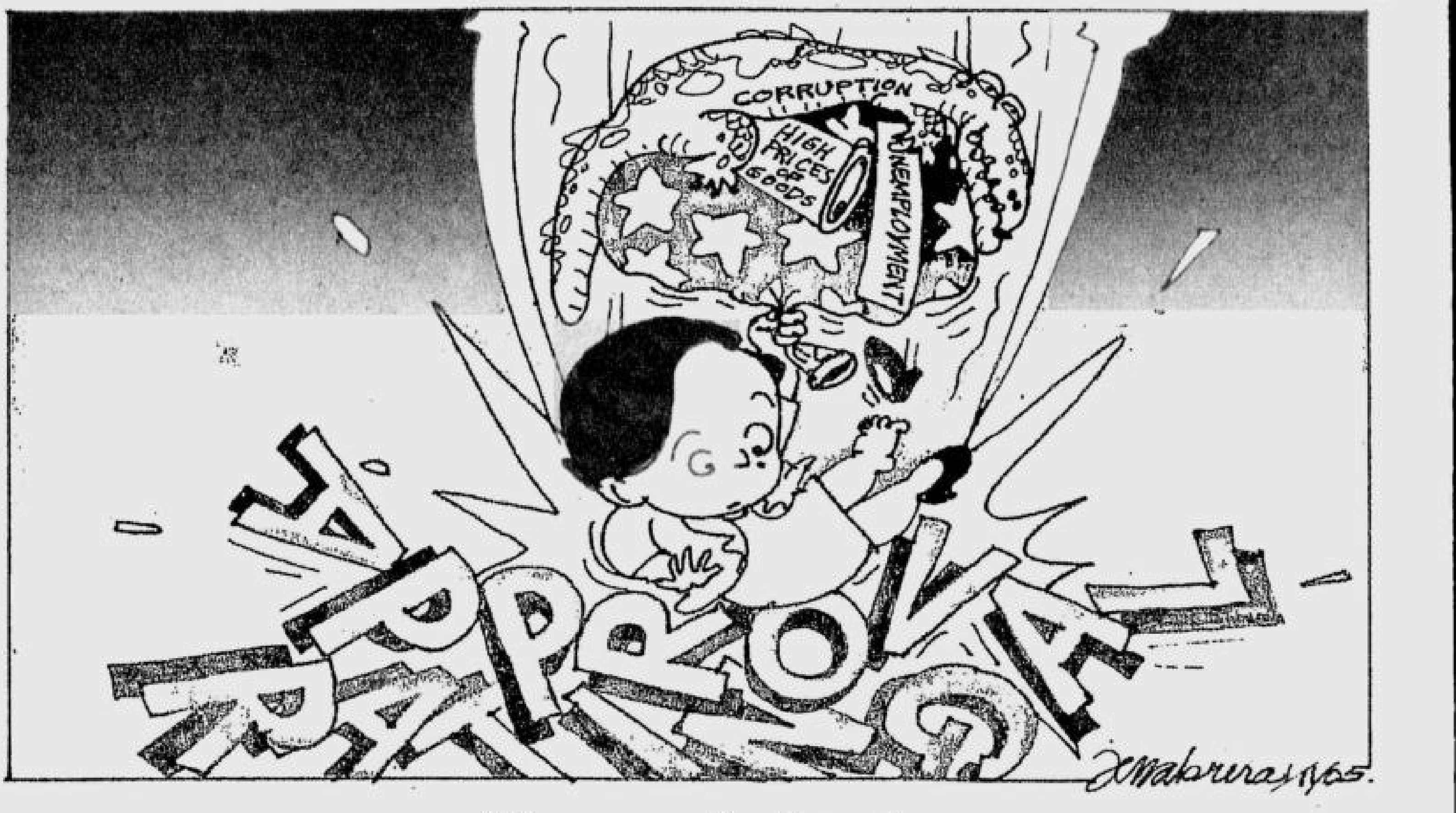
The Kyoto Protocol offers a start toward the solution of the problem. It would commit the parties to individual, legally binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. But although 84 countries signed the protocol, indicating that they intended to ratify it, many were reluctant to do so and thus bring it into force. One of the reluctant countries is the United States which should be exercising moral and political leadership in solving global warming but is not.

Even the Kyoto Protocol does not offer the ultimate solution. Jeremy Mahlman of the US National Center for Atmosphere Research said that controlling the increase in greenhouse gas emissions "would take 40 successful Kyotos. But we've got to do it."

A long-term solution would be a fundamental change in the way the world powers its economy, shifting from uncontrolled use of fossil fuels to an increased and more efficient use of renewable sources of energy such as the sun, wind, water, waves and the heat coming from the bowels of the earth (geothermal).

The way has been pointed out by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 with the adoption of Agenda 21, a wide-ranging blueprint for action to achieve sustainable development. Although Agenda 21 has been watered down by negotiation and compromise, it is considered the most comprehensive and effective program of action approved by the international community.

Global warming and climate and geological change have become very urgent and immediate social and personal concerns, as the shocking death tolls from the horrific tsunami, fierce storms, massive floods and long droughts have testified. The world cannot wait for the oceans to boil or for hell to freeze over before all nations join hands in taking aggressive action on global warming. It has to start now.



'Runyon's Law'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

DID "Runyon's Law" trigger the roulette that's snarling Cebu courts over a murder involving an affluent cult leader who packs political clout?

Perched on his off-Times Square Algonquin Bar stool, New York journalist Damon Runyon wrote his "law" by dusting off Ecclesiastes' the "race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," and adding: "But that's the way to bet."

So, did Judges Galicano Arriesgado, Olegario Sarmiento, Generosa Labra, Anacleto Caminade and Ireneo Lee Gako Jr. bet on "Runyon's Law"? They bailed out from trying the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association's Ruben Ecleo Jr. for killing his wife Alona Bacolod.

"Under our constitutional system, courts stand against any winds that blow, as a haven or refuge for those who otherwise suffer because they are helpless, weak or outnumbered," US Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black wrote. But the five inhibited themselves from trying PBMA's "Supreme Master."

None will admit attempts to suborn them. All insist they didn't "chicken out." Bloody murders, however, dog those involved in this case. A gunman massacred all but a handful of the Bacolod family. Another assassin gunned down Arbet Sta. Ana Yongco, a plucky lady lawyer who prosecuted Ecleo.

The PBMA disowned the triggermen. But Ecleo critic, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, sneers at the disclaimers.

Last December, police intercepted eight PBMA members with Armalites, silencers, grenades—and SWAT uniforms and wig disguises. They were heading where Osmeña was to be guest speaker. Most sported PBMA rings. But they denied knowing each other. Neither did they explain how they got in the same van, headed for the same place. The PBMA disowned the botched whatever-it-was-plot. But some Kafkaesque sense may emerge by rereading: "Guns, Goons, Gold—And God." Written by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's Marites Daguilan-Vitug, the book probes, in one of five studies, "how politics and religion combined into a potent, if not deadly brew, in the Ecleo fiefdom in Surigao."

For four decades, Ruben Sr. was venerated as a "god" by his constituents, many members of the family's PBMA, Vitug writes. On his death in 1987, he bequeathed the community and cult to Junior, "a rock musician, more interested in perfecting his guitar-playing skills than in governing the town of Dinagat."

"Ruben Jr. was arrested for parricide and found positive for shabu." Thousands of followers rose to defend their "divine master." Vitug writes: "The violent clashes between arresting officers and the PBMA left (22) cult members and one policeman dead. Much of it still holds true, though PBMA now boasts an even bigger and more fanatical following."

This inhibition roulette's latest twirl dumped the case on Cebu City's youngest regional trial court judge, Geraldine Faith Econg. She promptly directed the "master" to heed bail restrictions and stay put in Cebu City during the trial, or face arrest or jacked-up bail. Ecleo has shuttled between Manila and Dinagat for "medical tests." Econg also sought independent medical opinion.

"Lawyers spend a great deal of time shoveling smoke," Justice Holmes once said. Thus, they forget that "the life of the law has not been logic but experience."

With their experience of five inhibitions, Ecleo's defense panel now badgers the lady judge to back off. Econg should inhibit since "she showed bias" by denouncing name-your-price offers, the defense argues.

"Hang In There Judge," Sun-Star Daily bannered its report that the Integrated Bar of the Philippines objected to another inhibition bid. There was nothing unethical in the judge's order for Ecleo to stop gadding about, the IBP said. "To give in…would mean the defense get what they have been wishing for: to shop for a friendly judge and ultimately, to transfer the hearing of this case outside Cebu. We were not born yesterday."

The Supreme Court, in fact, recently dismissed a score of corrupt judges and disciplined others in Cebu. One had a bizarre "Runyon Law" spin-off. The Court fired RTC Branch 60 Judge Ildefonso Suerte for hurriedly convicting, last March, a "fall guy," Cedric Devinadera. Out of the blue, he "confessed" to having helped murder Ecleo's wife. He pinned the blame on the wife's brother. If his testimony is upheld, the "master" would go free.

But a judicial audit found that Suerte took on Ecleo and other cases, despite an earlier Court resolution barring him from handling new charges. The audit supported the IBP's protest that Suerte and public prosecutors knew "there was a pending, and highly publicized, parricide case against Ecleo before another court." The "conviction" was scrapped.

Citizens want a "*juez con cojones*." A "judge with balls" was the irreverent but admiring compliment paid to Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma in martial law's court of Marcos lapdogs.

Sandiganbayan's Teresita Leonardo-de Castro is a *juez con cojones*. She struck down Eduardo Cojuangco's bid to hang on to the coconut levy. So is the Supreme Court's Justice Maria Alicia Martinez. She ruled that Juan Ponce Enrile, Cojuangco and nine others face a P9.6-billion graft charge.

Many are keeping their fingers crossed that Econg will measure up to that model of tough women judges. "A good woman," the Pampango proverb says, "is worth many rubies."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Words

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"TODAY, I offer you a choice of life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life and then you and your descendants will live."

The words are from Deuteronomy, and they preface the Quezon clergy's indictment of government for the deaths in Quezon last December.

"While there was heavy rainfall," a statement signed by Bishop Rolando Tirona, his predecessor Julio Labayen and 24 priests said, "(the deaths) would not have happened if heavy logging had not taken place. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and different groups had been campaigning against logging in the Sierra Madre for many years now. The government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and local government officials did not listen.… We should no longer allow the irresponsible use of the environment for the gain of a few individuals and the so-called development agenda of the government and some private sectors."

The group called for the prosecution of the loggers and the government officials who approved their contracts.

I'm glad the Prelature of Infanta has spoken out on this. I was beginning to think it would go the route of other tragedies, things this country tends to accept without question as heaven-sent, with no small help from government which has a habit of unctuously cajoling the public to "move on" after tragedies occur. Or indeed after sandpapering the horrors with the language of damage control.

Chief of the words of that language is "natural." You affix the word "natural" to "disaster," and you're home free. The dead, or their kin, have no one to blame but God, fate, or bad luck, depending on their religious disposition, or lack of it. The three storms that visited Quezon Province might have been wrought by Nature—though even there, from the perspective of a messed-up global climate precipitated by global warming, they may not have been entirely so—but their effects were wrought by human hand.

The deaths in Quezon Province were not just caused by Nature, they were caused by loggers. It wasn't the winds that howled and the rains that fell in a torrent on Infanta and environs that killed hundreds of their residents, it was the logs that rumbled down the mountain and buried them in the mud. The prelature has every reason to be furious. Those logs claimed the life of one of their own, Fr. Charlito Colendres.

I had been wondering for some time when the outrage would come. Have we gotten so inured to death, even those so blatantly wreaked by people, that we agree so easily to let go and build on the bleached bones of the dead? Have we gotten so used to the sight of pain and suffering, particularly when assailed by one tragedy happening on top of the other, we console ourselves so easily we are not alone to have deaths in the family—others are worse off than we? Have we gotten so weak and resigned and voiceless that we surrender ourselves so easily to the narcotic of platitude and forgetfulness?

The deaths in Infanta are not just a catastrophe, they are a crime. Catastrophes are solved by relief, crimes are resolved by justice.

By speaking out against the crime, the prelature corrects yet another word that has been so widely bandied about, whose effect is to bury the dead in the mud twice over. That is the word "illegal," especially as affixed to "logging." By harping on "illegal" logging, government has exculpated, or tried mightily to, the true criminals in this case, which are the legal loggers, made so by the documents they carry from the DENR. Can anything be more idiotic than attributing the tons of logs that fell down the mountains and washed up to the sea to the nefarious activities of "illegal" loggers? Can anything be more idiotic than suggesting that the solution to that is to add more checkpoints to catch the *kaingineros* and indigenous folk who operate on the fringes of the logging routes—and often feed on them—and punish them "to the full extent of the law"?

The evidence is plain for all to see. The only thing worse than injury is insult added to it. The only thing worse than death is murder. The only thing worse than murder is the murderer getting away.

And finally, I am glad the prelature has spoken out because of yet another word that government has been using to bury the crime, along with the dead, in an unmarked grave. That word is "growth," or as the prelature calls it, "development agenda." All government has had to do in the past to excuse crimes like this is invoke growth, or survival (amid crushing) poverty, and everything is made all right. Tragedies like this are the price we pay to grow, develop or indeed survive as a community, people and nation.

Well, they are an unacceptable price to pay. Or the wrong people are paying it. The death of a single child is an unacceptable price to pay for that kind of growth and development. The death of an entire community is a devil's bargain. I say this in particular because barely had the last earth been shoveled on to the dead of Quezon than government began talking of the wonders of opening mining to foreign capital. I said it before: that is all very well, but first let Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Mike Defensor and their cabal put their money where their mouths are, or their lives where their words are, and let their children live and breathe the air of the thing they call safe. Otherwise it's just some people's fortunes growing and developing on the contraction and deterioration of the sources of life of the rest of the nation.

There are words and there are words, some words being more worth heeding than others. Deuteronomy's are one of the latter. Choose life, and you and your descendants will live. Choose death, and, well, just make sure the right people end up in that state.

GMA order for info on 'meningo' timely

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT'S about time that President Macapagal Arroyo fired the order to the Department of Health to conduct a massive information drive on meningococcemia. I myself had wondered why the DOH has been fuzzy about this sickness. It has left citizens in the dark as to how it's caught and how to avoid it, how to recognize symptoms and what to do and where to go in case one manifests them. Perhaps the government doesn't want to alarm the people, but as in the SARS episode, it's better to take the bull by the horns. That's how we were able to head off SARS.

All the "meningo" cases being reported cannot be ignored. A total of 150 cases are being monitored in Isabela, while one death has occurred in next-door Quirino, with the patient said to have come from Baguio. "Meningo" has reportedly appeared in various places in the North, apart from Baguio, which has been declared a calamity area, as well as in Mindanao.

* * *

The opposition yesterday filed a motion before the Supreme Court seeking to substitute actress Susan Roces for her late husband as petitioner in his electoral protest. The FPJ case lawyer, Sixto Brilliantes Jr., has acknowledged that the actress won't benefit from the substitution in any legal manner inasmuch as she was never a candidate. The lawyer said if anyone would benefit from a possible FPJ victory in court, it would be Vice President Noli de Castro or former Sen. Loren Legarda, FPJ's runningmate, assuming her own case against De Castro prospers. So the question is, why the substitution of Roces?

* * *

There are several ways to look at this new petition. One is that with Roces in the forefront, it will ensure that the protest case, which will cost P50 million, will be kept alive in the headlines and public interest will not wane. If this is the motive, then it's a smart decision. But another way of looking at it is that the Supreme Court will be placed in a sort of dilemma, especially if it decides to throw out the Roces substitution, as it very likely will, if a similar case in the past is invoked.

* * *

I caught President Macapagal Arroyo's election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, recalling a similar case that was thrown out by the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET). In 1995, the very durable Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan was proclaimed winner over Col. Rolando Abadilla for one of the province's two congressional seats, but Abadilla filed a protest with the HRET. After he had completed his presentation of evidence, however, Abadilla was shot dead by an unknown assassin, and his widow Susan filed a motion to substitute for her husband. The HRET threw out her petition, arguing that because of the colonel's demise, his protest was no longer of moment and it upheld Ablan's proclamation. Macalintal recalled that in contrast to Abadilla's case, the FPJ case is still in the preliminary stage, and as an interesting aside, he also stressed that his *kumpadre*, Brilliantes, cannot possibly forget that case, since he was Ablan's lawyer.

* * *

Mystery surrounds the decision of the Sandiganbayan special division chief, Justice Eriberto Sandoval, to resign yesterday. There's speculation that he resigned because of his disappointment over the fact that he wasn't appointed presiding justice (to replace Menita Chico-Nazario, who was appointed to the Supreme Court late last year).

Others speculate that Sandoval resigned because of his displeasure over the perception that Malacañang is softening on former President Estrada, who's being tried for plunder in the special division. I caught Chief Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio lamenting Sandoval's resignation. He said the justice had sided with the prosecution in many instances, such as its objection to Erap's foreign trip and the issue of house arrest.

But it may well be that the Supreme Court could turn down Sandoval's resignation and he would be forced to stay.

* * *

Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar has opined that the failure of the Senate to pass the critical revenue measures, except the sin taxes bill, is another evidence of the need to have only one congressional chamber. He was doubtless thinking of the fact that the House had passed five revenue bills when the regular session adjourned for Christmas: the sin taxes bill, lateral attrition, rationalization of fiscal incentives, tax amnesty and the extension of the Pagcor franchise for another 25 years. In the same period, the Senate managed to pass the sin taxes bill only; and in the special session, it was able to pass the lateral attrition bill, but there was no chance to reconcile it with the House version in the bicameral conference committee, which the House members were waiting for.

* * *

It is indeed very tempting to think of the Senate as a very slow and redundant chamber, with a lot of members devoid of any sense of urgency, and to favor the shift to a parliamentary/unicameral form of government. Given the state of our economy and our urgent problems, a unicameral legislature would doubtless be more responsive. But Senate President Franklin Drilon, talking to this columnist before Christmas, defended his chamber, like a good chief. He argued that its sin-taxes bill was the superior version and that one or two more bills passed by the House express train do give good sound bytes, but ultimately would prove inutile in raising revenues.

Incidentally, I like Drilon's idea of allowing new car owners to register their vehicles for three years in order to help the government raise needed revenues. This ought to be made optional but encouraged. I'm sure many citizens would want to do this as a way to help alleviate the budget deficit. In fact, this creative means could be stretched to include other modes of advance payment.

Getting a 'good pap'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S what the "V Book" says about "getting a good Pap": "An optimal Pap test depends on several different elements: a good sample, proper interpretation of that sample, a good screening lab, and an accurate reading. Each aspect along the way holds opportunities for error."

While there is little the average woman can do to ensure the quality of the lab work and interpretation of her sample, there are some things she can do to ensure that her doctor or clinic gets a good sample. Here are the "V Book"'s recommendations:

- Don't use intravaginal medication or douches for 24 hours before the sample is taken.
- Don't have intercourse or use contraceptive jelly or cream for 24 hours before your Pap.
- Don't schedule a Pap when your period is due. Small amounts of blood will not interfere with evaluation of the cells, but large amounts during the menses are likely to make the smear impossible to interpret.
- Don't wait until after your Pap is finished at an annual exam to tell your clinician about other V symptoms you're having (for example: bleeding, itching, secretions—RJD). Talk about your problems first and let her/him decide whether to go ahead with the Pap.

Dr. Elizabeth Stewart, primary author of the "V Book," says women shouldn't try to "sanitize" their V areas before they come for a consultation. Odor and appearance of the vagina and vulva are some of the factors doctors use to diagnose an ailment, if any.

* * *

HERE'S more on the ongoing "Patricia" trial on a vaccine to protect young women from the two types of HPV (human papilloma virus) that have been linked to 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases.

Dr. Wen del Rosario Raymundo, one of the investigators in the trial based at the San Pablo Colleges Medical Center (her husband John, also an Ob-Gyn, is a co-investigator) says that aside from the present centers where volunteers may sign up (aside from San Pablo, these are Makati Medical Center, De La Salle University Medical Center in Cavite and Calamba Medical Center), new centers will soon be set up. These are at UP-PGH, University of Perpetual Help and Healthserv in Los Baños.

To repeat, women volunteers need to be from 15 to 25 years old, in good health and not pregnant or breastfeeding (and not planning to get pregnant within the next eight months). Dr. Raymundo stresses that the vaccines, Pap smears and gynecologic exams are all free of charge, though volunteers need to commit to 10 scheduled visits over the four years of the research trial. "The specimens for Pap smears are sent to the US since we have a centralized lab to standardize results," adds Wen.

In contrast to the complaint of investigators based at Makati Med that volunteers have been difficult to attract, Wen says the response of women from San Pablo, chosen to represent a rural setting, has been "very encouraging." "Women in a rural setting do not give as much priority to their reproductive health care. Majority of the women I see have never had a Pap smear or even have an idea of what it is! They do not even know what or where the cervix is!" And right there is the reason cervical cancer, despite its manageable nature, continues to kill so many Filipino women.

By the way, National Cancer Consciousness Week will be observed from Jan. 16-21. On Jan. 16, Sunday, National Cancer Survivors' Day will be observed with a Mass and get-together at 11 a.m. at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church in Project 4. Cancer survivors, their families, caregivers, friends and supporters are all invited to join them in their celebration of life.

* * *

AMID THE MANY problems that survivors of the South and Southeast Asian tsunami tragedy confront, from starvation to disease, homelessness to violence, the "same old problems" continue to haunt them. If the tsunami devastated parts of the world already reeling from hardship, the flood of relief and aid, already in the billions of dollars, can only address the more immediate needs of survivors. Structural problems, like hunger and poverty, will continue to blight their lives. Long-standing concerns, such as reproductive health and violence against women, on the other hand, not only will continue to exist, but have even been exacerbated by the crisis.

The United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) estimates that there are at least 150,000 pregnant women in tsunami-affected areas, and of these, 50,000 will be giving birth within the next three months.

How these women could give birth safely, and how they are expected to care for their newborns amid the devastation, is a question that seems to have escaped the attention of much of the world. Even under normal circumstances, notes the UNFPA, 15 percent of births will be attended by complications. The percentage of women dying from childbirth, or of infants dying soon after birth, can be expected to rise in these countries where, to quote an observer, "the health infrastructure has been largely destroyed, and traditional midwives have been sidelined."

To prevent unnecessary deaths, the UNFPA has begun distributing "safe birth kits" among pregnant women in the evacuation centers. The contents of each kit are eloquent testament to how little it takes to ensure the survival of both mother and child at delivery: a sterile plastic sheet, a bar of soap, a razor blade to cut the umbilical cord, and a string to tie off the cord. A simple step to ensure a child survives the first hours after birth is to keep him or her warm, wrapped in a clean blanket or piece of cloth.

Whether both mother and child survive the other challenges of their post-tsunami existence, though, is another question altogether.

Medicinal springs

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

EVERY so often, a niece of mine sends me a present of a moisturizer touted to be hypo-allergenic and anti-aging (as in hope springs eternal). Its main selling point is that it contains something called "mineral skin osmoter" (it doesn't matter that I've never heard of such a thing), a highly concentrated Dead Sea mineral complex.

Then there's Marcella Borghese's beauty products from "Terme di Monti Catini," with a cream that supposedly contains mud (refined, of course) and sells for the equivalent of several thousand pesos that you can find in Sak's 5th or Neiman Marcus.

What is surprising is that we know of no effort to sell our local thermal springs as world-class tourist attractions or develop any products utilizing their medicinal qualities. Of course, from 1884 (when a report was published) to the present, there is no doubt that most are ecologically degraded and others no longer exist. But what of the remaining ones?

On Dec. 15, 1884, the director general of Civil Administration, D. Rafael Ruiz Martinez, proposed to the governor general, D. Joaquin Jovellar, the establishment of a scientific commission to study the mineral waters in Luzon. With the decree passed, the commission traveled throughout the island gathering data to determine the climatic conditions, topography and geology of the springs. There were springs in Mangatarem (Pangasinan), in San Miguel de Mayumo (Bulacan), Aguas de Sta. Matilde and Aguas de San Jose in Sibul (then part of San Miguel), Aguas de San Mariano and Aguas de Dilain in Norzagaray (Bulacan), Aguas de Sipocot (Camarines Sur), Aguas de Asin (Benguet), Aguas de Galas (Mabitag, Laguna), four springs from the mountain called Azufre, Aguas de San Emilio in Tayabas in the barrio of Silangan-Palali near the river of Maasin, Aguas de Apasan in Lucban (Tayabas), Aguas de Napudut (Rosales, Nueva Ecija), Aguas de Colasi (Daet, Camarines Norte), Aguas de Tancalao (Tabaco, Albay), Aguas de Magsingal.

Some were found to contain sodium chloride, others iron bicarbonate, sulfur-hydrate and alkaline silicate. And those were only in Luzon and what the group, with its limited facilities, could see. Actually the number of mineral springs in this country is not surprising given that we have a volcanic origin.

There was the spring at Lalo, Goa, Camarines Sur with carbonated water. The spring was on the skirt of Isarog volcano in the jurisdiction of the town of Goa, between the barrios of Payatan and Lalo. Its carbonated, iron-filled water was believed to be good for curing all sorts of ailments from anemia to respiratory ailments.

In Mariveles-Bataan was the spring at Balong-Anito or sacred well or divine, two kilometers west from the church of Mariveles and situated in the middle of a cultivated plain that extended from the beach up to the sierras of the same name. A small promontory rose in the form of a cone some seven meters in height and 20 meters in diameter, and because of its salubrious effects on the people, it was known as Balong-Anito. The plains where the small hill rose were made up of alluvial deposits owing to the pull of the river that emptied near the town and to the denudation of the mountains that surrounded said plain.

From the limestone hill gushed the spring that filled a huge semi-elliptic shaped pond, crystallized in some areas, produced by the solidification of the calcium carbonate that the waters contained. The waters were clear, transparent, odorless and tasted salty.

In the western coast of the peninsula of Jalajala, approximately three kilometers from Bagombong, in the shores of the lagoon, was the thermo-mineral spring of Lubo that gushed some 50 meters from the shores. The beach in the small cove was sandy and partly covered some of its banks of volcanic tufa, similar to that which constituted the floor of Los Baños or Aguas Santas. Across this soft and porous rock, the thermal waters (40 to 51 C) sprang in different points and with distinct temperatures. They contained among other substances carbolic acid, sulfur, silicate and magnesium.

Even in the barrio of Santolan in Pasig, on the right margin of the San Mateo River, in the area of the building where the machinery that provided the water for Manila stood, were two principal springs. One was located to the northeast of the building and the other southeast. The grounds of the area were formed by alluvial deposit, under which appeared the volcanic rock that not only covered a great part of the province of Manila but extended to Bulacan, constituting the subsoil of those fertile plains.

The springs gushed from soft volcanic tufa, greenish in hue, very similar to the springs in San Rafael, Sibul. The waters were clear, transparent and colorless, with a slight sulfuric smell and an almost imperceptible alkaline taste.

We have a tendency to blame everyone but ourselves for the plight we're in, but think of the resources we failed to appreciate, what we threw away, what we destroyed and what we keep on demolishing. The destruction in Aurora wasn't caused by a whim of nature but man's greed. Is anyone answerable?

("Memoria descriptiva de los manantiales minero-medicinales de la isla de Luzon," 1890, D. Jose Centeno, D. Anacleto del Rosario, D. Jose de Vera under D. Jonquin Jovellar y Soler)

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

On the back of spirits

YOUNG BLOOD

Ajeet-Victor S. Panemanglor

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I was a child, Muslims were to me but characters of one of my favorite stories, a fantastic tale about Fez, the city of incredible djinns and exotic mansions and of Bedouins where people flew above the desert on the backs of spirits and good triumphed over evil.

When I was living in India, Muslims were the people gathering to pray in the mosque near our apartment building, their shoes neatly lined outside the door. And I was a little boy trying to sneak a peek into that mysterious building.

When I went to a Catholic high school, Muslims were people like my seat mate who was fun and down to earth and liked R and B and who told me that they considered Jesus a prophet.

While I was reading a cookbook (of all things), I learned that Muslims knew about Adam and Eve and that they, too, revered Abraham.

While I was reading about India, the home of half of my heart, I learned that Muslims had united the land under a single empire for a time. And that the love of one of their emperors led to the construction of the Taj Mahal, the symbol of the nation.

And while I was learning about the Philippines, the home of my heart's other half, I learned about the brave warriors of the South, the Moros, who were never fully conquered by the Spaniards or by the Americans.

It is very different today. Not too long ago, I read an editorial in another daily peddling bigoted opinion masquerading as fact to condemn the construction of a Muslim prayer room in a mall, claiming it would become a breeding ground for terrorists. No one would have raised an eyebrow if it were a Christian prayer room that was being built.

I notice that people stare at me nervously when I board the LRT after forgetting to shave. Because I am half-Indian and somewhat bearded, I probably look like an Arab to them. And apparently to them, Arab equals terrorist.

I watch as bombs rain down on Muslim countries because a rogue superpower has decided it knows best, and then lies to the world about why it has invaded another country. I see no infinite justice or enduring freedom here. I doubt if the 3,000 people or so who died on Sept. 11, 2001 would see those things either. Or approve of the violence being committed in their name.

I watch as a few clerics and terrorists hijack a great and peaceful religion for their own purposes. I watch as the world turns in fear, when the millions of Islam's adherents are really peaceful people and good people, who have nothing to do with these fanatical clerics and terrorists and who are our neighbors and schoolmates and friends.

When the Catholic Church hijacked Christianity for its Crusades centuries ago, we did not turn away. We forgot.

When secular governments hijack nations for their own agendas, we do not turn away. We employ diplomacy.

Yet we turn away now.

My today is very different from my yesterday. It is less mystical and much darker. I fear that something bad will happen.

Perhaps tomorrow things will be different. But tomorrow is not yet here. And today is scary. It is not scary because bombs may kill us, it is scary because intolerance and bigotry will kill us.

I am not a Muslim. I am a person. We all are—from different races, creeds and, yes, religions. We all aspire for the same basic things: to live in a safe, peaceful world and to be free to follow the spiritual path we choose.

The religion of my birth taught me that I should not worry about tomorrow, for today already carries enough worries of its own. I will do this today. I will not see the bombings, but the centuries and centuries of great civilization that came before. I will see beyond the burqa and the veil and the head scarf and see the individuals behind them. I will not condemn Islam for the actions of a few, just as my religion was never condemned for the actions of a few, because a small part never defines the whole. And I will not fear them for being different, because it is our differences that make us beautiful.

I will not be intolerant, and hope that tomorrow, I will awaken to a world where more people will choose to do the same. And in my dreams, I will be flying on the back of a spirit, across the desert sands.

Ajeet-Victor S. Panemanglor, 20, is a third year social work student at the Philippine Christian University.

The brave die but once

Gabriel Ernesto A. Pangalangan

CARPE diem. Most people know what the saying means and strive to live by it every single day. But some consider it a pathetic excuse to do whatever they want. I try to apply it to my everyday life.

I wasn't always this way. As a child, I tended to be a very solitary type of guy. I wouldn't participate in class or in games during recess. I never joined the organizations I wanted, but stuck to the Art Club where I knew I would be welcome. But when I was 10, a big change took place. It was a turning point in my life.

That year, our family moved to Boston so that my dad could teach at Harvard University. Before we left, my English teacher gave me our class picture with the words *"Carpe diem"* written on it. During our year-long stay in Boston, I'd look at that picture every single day but never put the advice into practice. Our time there was well spent but it was not lived to the fullest.

When we returned to the Philippines, I'd look back at my life in Cambridge and I couldn't help thinking of what could have been. I learned new ways to hate the words "could have," "regret" and "if only." Life in Boston was an opportunity I didn't take advantage of. With his advice, my teacher meant to help me in a way I failed to comprehend. I let life pass me by.

I knew I could not let this happen again. So from that day on, I made the promise never to let a single moment go by without experiencing it fully. I became more vocal and more outgoing. I joined the varsity football team and the varsity track and field team. I learned how to kayak, play tennis, ride a horse and sail a boat. I began taking better care of my body and I took up lessons in muay Thai and aikido. I learned how to play the piano and joined a band as the vocalist. In theme parks, I began riding the gut-busting rides like The Abyss in Hong Kong and the G-Max in Singapore, even though I was worried that I might throw up in front of everybody. I discovered the excitement of taking risks and the thrill of screaming. I jumped at the chance to do anything and took nothing for granted. I did things that I thought I'd regret because I knew that what I'd regret more was not taking a chance.

"Cowards die a thousand times before their deaths, the brave die but once," Shakespeare wrote. Before I decided to change my life, I let moments pass without being able to live them out to the fullest. Because I failed to live, I died, in a manner of speaking. Now, I promise to live my life and meet death but once.

Gabriel Ernesto A. Pangalangan, 17, is in third year at the Ateneo de Manila High School.

UPHOLD JUSTICE
for Jalosjos' VICTIM
Gloria, NO to
POLITICAL COMPROMISE

Wrong pardon

WE, of the Kapatirang Simbahan Para sa Bayan (Kasimbayan) Women's Collective, in solidarity with the women's and children's rights advocates, remind President Macapagal-Arroyo that granting executive clemency to convicted child-rapist Romeo Jalosjos would be a travesty of justice. The mere fact that Jalosjos enjoys extra-special privileges while in prison is already insulting. The idea of granting him clemency is an even greater insult and affront to our sense of morality and justice, especially as it is entertained in the highest office of the land, and by a woman President at that!

It is obvious that the call for the release of Jalosjos, a known GMA ally, is fueled primarily by political considerations rather than by humanitarian reasons. Let the victim and those she represents experience a little peace by the knowledge that Jalosjos is serving his sentence. In the name of the victims of violence and abuse, keep Jalosjos in prison.

Jalosjos was convicted while he was in power. It was a significant victory for children- and women-victims of violence. If not for the organized actions of concerned women and citizens, the victim could not have triumphed against power and influence.

The punishment meted out to Jalosjos is not even enough to erase the trauma suffered by the victim. Such crime will never be erased from the memory of the child. Releasing Jalosjos is tantamount to refreshing the pain and wound she suffered at a very young and tender age.

There are many prisoners who are unjustly detained and suffering. Being poor and without the money to hire the expensive services of a legal counsel, and lacking connections to the powers-that-be, they cannot petition for clemency. There are political prisoners who have been unjustly convicted for a crime they did not commit, yet they continue to languish in jail.

Donato Continente, for example, is innocent of the killing of Col. James Rowe, a US military officer. In prison for the past 12 years, Continente deserves immediate freedom, but the American government opposes any move of the Philippine government to have him released. Continente and over 200 political prisoners are unjustly imprisoned.

We call on the Department of Justice, the members of Congress and President Arroyo to be sensible enough. People have little trust left in the government. Granting Jalosjos executive pardon will yet raise another critical issue that could cause the people to completely lose faith in the Philippine justice system and the Arroyo government.

—NORMA P. DOLLAGA,
general secretary,
Kapatirang Simbahan Para sa Bayan (Kasimbayan),
kasimbyn@tri-isys.com

Are mining safeguards enough?

IT is good that the metallurgist in Larry Halili has compelled him to search for a more "responsible" way of mining. (PDI, 1/4/04)

Unfortunately, it is difficult for other Filipinos to easily buy into the claim that mining companies will be "better and responsible" extractors of natural resources this time around. Experience shows that past mining operations have not been consistent in implementing the supposed environmental and social safeguards.

The Marcopper disaster and the displacement of numerous communities in Mindanao and Northern Luzon attest to the inability of this extractive industry to deliver its "development promises," both at the national and local levels.

In fact, most mining areas have become poorer because profits from mining operations have either been brought to the Manila head office, or worse, expatriated to the mother off-shore transnational corporation.

Despite the surprising Supreme Court decision favoring the mining industry, it is still difficult to trust that the new mining companies will act differently this time by employing newer technologies and by promising to be more faithful to the Environmental Impact Assessment provisions in their operations.

—JAYBEE GARGANERA,
program coordinator,
Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA),
59 C. Salvador St.,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

God is not vengeful

MICHAEL Tan's "Acts of God" (PDI, 1/7/04) hits the nail right on the head.

All too often, people attribute to God's wrath events that are beyond human understanding. To say they are "acts of God" is to paint a picture of a God bent on exacting revenge for the various infractions, big and small, that are committed by His/Her creatures. My belief in God goes against this concept.

The AIDS epidemic is said to be the Almighty's punishment to homosexuals. Never mind the fact that a lot, if not the majority, of those killed by the disease are women and children.

The tsunami was God's way of telling us to change our ways. By killing so many innocent children and creating such havoc and destruction? Please! Speaker Jose de Venecia's daughter didn't perish in that fire because she was a bad person.

Things happen, and we don't know why. We won't know the explanation till we've crossed over to the other side. For now, while we're still in this life, we can use our faith in God as support. We should not attribute to God human qualities such as revenge.

Filipinos readily explain things away as being *"Pagsubok ng Diyos."* Really?

An omniscient God subjecting us to trials and tribulations to see how strong our faith is in Him/Her? I don't believe so.

The Catholic preacher's claim that the typhoons were God's way of punishing politicians for supporting family planning is ludicrous and truly asinine. Maybe, if people will search for answers by themselves instead of just listening to those so-called men of God, they'll have a better understanding of God and enjoy a one-on-one, real, personal and truly fulfilling relationship with God in spite of all the things that are happening in the world.

—O. HERNANDO,
nasaanka@hotmail.com

Rationalizing reforestation

I DON'T completely agree with the former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, who said that indiscriminate and illegal logging activities did not contribute to the occurrence of the killer landslides that struck Aurora and Quezon. (PDI, 12/11/04)

Forests greatly lessen the velocity of the flow of water down the hillsides. To say that massive logging has no effect on the capacity of the forests to reduce the impact of heavy rains on the soil and does not contribute to the much more rapid flow of water that causes massive erosion and landslides is definitely incorrect.

From what I have seen on TV and in the newspapers, the great number of logs flushed downstream in those provinces could be attributed to nothing else but the indiscriminate logging that has undoubtedly contributed greatly to the loss of lives, infrastructure, property and crops.

I also find it hard to believe that the officials and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are not aware of the existence of illegal logging in those provinces. Their claim that they have no knowledge of the existence of illegal logging and unlicensed sawmills in those areas can only mean that they don't take time out to monitor what's going on in the field or they have been bribed to keep silent.

I understand that the DENR does not have enough forest guards. But even with only a handful of them, massive logging and unlicensed sawmills can surely be detected. Every log that comes from the forest would eventually end up in a processing plant or at a loading point for shipping. Watch these places and you'll be able to catch a lot of culprits.

Perhaps, it is time to seriously study the possibility of the government doing all logging activities, like in India. Then, deforestation can be more easily controlled: private companies can do the wood processing, but without getting involved in forest harvesting. They would have to buy logs for their mills from the government.

On reforestation, one of the major causes of its failure is poor planning. In most cases, sites earmarked for planting are not adequately evaluated in terms of their climatic and soil characteristics; species are commonly selected without regard to their suitability to the planting sites; seeds are collected from easily accessed trees though they are mostly of poor form; and little attention is placed on seedling quality, site preparation and spacing.

We now have a software for species-site matching in the Philippines, a product of a five-year research project. Let's use this in preparing an honest-to-goodness development and management plan for each site before we go into planting.

—CELSO B. LANTICAN,
cblant@laguna.net

But can DENR stand up to multinational companies?

VET Vitug obviously missed the main point of my article, "More tragedies in the making" (PDI, 12/12/04) as can be gleaned from his letter titled "Mining Act's safety nets." (PDI, 12/31/04)

I was saying that the Philippine government and, indeed, Third World governments, in general, are simply not strong enough to stand up to the power of multinational firms when it comes to protecting the environment. To prove this point, I cited the case of Marcopper and Placer Dome in Marinduque, cases in Indonesia and India, and the inability of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to control even local illegal loggers.

Vitug replies by citing the provisions in the Mining Act, which he said are meant to safeguard the environment and the rights of indigenous peoples. But he offers no evidence to indicate that the DENR can or do enforce these provisions against the power of international firms at a time when our government is starved for foreign exchange.

It would have been more revealing if the letter had specified what has been accomplished in forcing Placer Dome to clean up the mess in the Boac River and compensate the fisherfolk of Calancan Bay for the loss of their livelihood; and how the criminal case against the Placer Dome executives who ran Marcopper has been resolved.

—JOHN J. CARROLL, S.J.,
senior research associate,
Institute on Church and Social Issues, Ateneo de Manila University Campus,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

InqBox

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

The recent earthquake and tsunami that resulted in over 155,000 deaths and injuries to countless others make me feel that life is. . .

Precious & short. I have no control of d future but i can do something 2day: live life fully, love unconditionally & take care of d environment.
—Lisa Dalisay, *Quezon City*

...fragile and temporary
—Cesar Marinius M. Reyes, *Agusan del Norte*

precious & can be gone in seconds at unexpected times & circumstances, so we must live life righteously & 2 d fullest.
—dr. jessie albeus, *naga city*

d recent earthquake & tsunami made me feel helpless. awakened me to d need 2 turn to God. but also grateful dat d Lord spared us.
—christel pay seng, *baguio*

Life's a blessing. People dat escaped d tragedy are lucky n must be thankful n shuld help d unfortunate ones caught in d havoc by sharing what dey can.
—Jefferson Lim, *Q.C.*

God-given and taken.
—Marcelo Pascua, *Rodriguez, Rizal*

Life is too short. the government must modernize our weather forecasting system 2 better prepare Filipinos from killer typhoons, tsunamis, etc.
—IAN CASIS, *capiz*

very unpredictable and preparedness is a must. Prayers will greatly help too.
—peter alub, *quezon city*

Life is... co-existent with the environment
—jeremy insigne, *baguio*

worthless when nature is not at peace with humans.
—salvacion p. pagauan, *quezon city*

Life is laid under the hands of God.
—engineer art fb Salvador, *ilocos norte*

full of surprises dat we never know what will happen next..
—elsa t. canda, *davao city*

. . .That LIFE is so fragile, in just a blink of an eye we can all perish from dis earth..
—GINA M. BUSTOS, *Gen. Santos City*

LIFE is so short that we need to take care of it and also of NATURE.
—Ralph Solomon B. Erediano, *Davao city*

Life is unpredictable.
—Emmanuel Co, *QC*

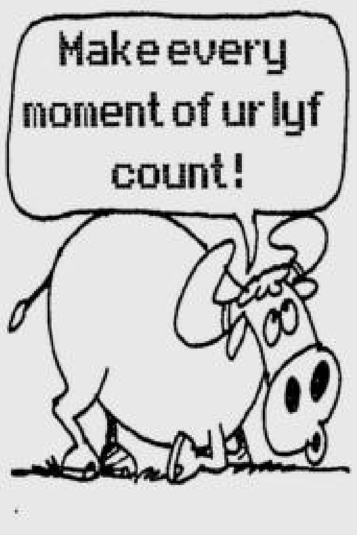
only borrowed from GOD.
—shinju cawis, *tabuk, kalinga*

..life is like a dream on way 2 death, it ends unexpectedly. We must use it 4 God's glory!
—Antonio Taguinod, *Antipolo City*

bound 2 end.
—renato p., *makati*

not something dat one solely owns. it's only entrusted 2 us by God and He can take it anytime he wants to. Life is a gift from God. we shud live it righteously so dat there will be no regrets in d event God takes it away from us.
—John Bongato, *antipolo city*

life is very important. we read in book of PSALM 100:2-3 SERVE the LORD with gladness.


Make every moment of ur lyf count!

—Jovanie I. Amador, *Taguig*

dat life takes but a moment.. & the memory of it sometimes lasts forever, dat life is 2 short 2 be unhappy-so make d most of it
—elmer Guevara, *urdaneta city*

Life is not really our own but GOD-given, He can take it anytime.
—Bernie Tangunan, *Cubao, QC*

..so fleeting, every second counts.
—Pilar Villarta, *parañaque*

useless, all useless. we leave this world just as we entered it —with nothing.
—Carlos Morato, *manila*

Volatile.
—JOSE BROTARLO jr, *roxas city*

not 4 human 2 take it away, only "GOD" has d RIGHT to ask for it.
—Levy Oli, *Malabon*

Life is uncertain, inevitable things happen which are beyond our control. We ought to be prepared always.
—paul ganaban, *bacolod*

make me feel dat life on earth is temporary.
—Mercedes Tejerero, *Valenzuela city*

an unpredictable journey. A trip that might be short or long. We must be prepared to leave abruptly.
—marcelo malony mallari, *caloocan city*

Good to make us realize that we all are still human enough to feel joy, gladness, love, pain, sorrow, compassion and GOD.
—maribelle m. Santos, *QC*

bound to end, anytime, anywhere.
—divina lopez, *davao city*

survival of the fittest! may all d tsunami survivors stay alive despite of d outbreak of various diseases.
—cynthia g. enriquez, *marikina*

precious
—candy Garcia, *tanauan city*

is not ours we just borrow it from d One up high Who molds d first man on top of earth
—roger canezo, *cebu*

is not what u owned, u got no control of it if it will be taken out of you off-guard, for death is like a thief in the night.
—may g. malapitan, *quezon city*

...that life is useless, scary, no life at all.
—dan ballener, *iloilo*

Life is precious in his end. Borrowed from GOD, & anytime he has 2 get it, according 2 his wishes.
—Percival Guerrero, *Amas, Kidapawan City*

...not truly ours & we cannot always be in control of situations we find ourselves in.
—cj labog-cuevas, *makati city*

Sometimes full of tragedies beyond comprehension, sufferings beyond expressions in words, and human compassion beyond expectations.
—Kaiben So, *Davao City*

...that life is too short, we need to live life to the fullest and always prepared that anytime we may die.
—remia matti, *victorias city*

a journey not a destination. So, we have to live our lives wisely.
—EDGAR G. FLORES, *olongapo city*

Life is not ours to keep and we should live the life we have now with principle, dignity and meekness.
—Ern Dancel, *Urdaneta City*

it makes me feel that Life is like a VAPOUR.
—al milan, *quezon city*

precious, it can be snapped out of you any moment so make the most out of it.
—rhodora sanchez, *biñan, laguna*

that life is short & so must be enjoyd 2 d fullest, & wear off d fears, doubts, angst, & make GOD as d center of life 4 our guidance.
—michelle apang, *davao city*

ephemeral.
—gerry singson, *vigan city*

...that life is... too fragile, that we are only given enough time to find and follow our purpose.
—jovan baclig, *quezon city*

... as temporary as God wills it to be.
—Jun R. Cepeda, *Q.C.*

life is a journey not a destination. So live your lives wisely
—EDGAR G. FLORES, *olongapo city*

Fleeting, so every second counts.
—Pilar Villarta, *Pque*

full of change. many say the disaster was GOD'S act. for me no, it's some people's act of negligence towards nature. GOD is great!
—oscar, *manila*

It makes me feel dat life has nothing much of a value. Thru NATURE & actions of fellowmen, lives are claimed at the COST OF NOTHING.
—Emilius Liwan, *Baguio*

Temporary bcoz ders heaven.
—Ferzo, *nueva ecija*

Life is near 2 death so we must always prepare by being obedient 2 GOD.
—Ryan L. Kintanar, *cebu city*

Life is short & uncertain, make d best of it that pleases God, help less fortunate people 2 have a better life.
—ralph larida deocos, *davao city*

so brittle that the catastrophe spared no one since the innocent and the sinful were both affected.
—et Mendoza, *caloocan*

... at the mercy of nature.
—Rolly Jude Ortega, *Koronadal City*

a series of unorthodox events. no one knows what tomorrow has in store for us.
—mark esteban, *sjdm city, bulacan*

human life is near to its "EXTINCTION! Life is survival! You always have to be ready at all times & take necessary precautions 2 protect urself and your family.
—Edwin B. Trinidad, *Davao*

the recent tsunami makes me feel dat life is juz short. So do everything you can 2day, coz maybe derz no more 2morow. Ü
—michael jordan Toledo, *iloilo city*

precious and a gift from God that can be taken anytime He wants.
—jelorie peroja, *quezon city*

Life is extremely brief, it made me realize that i am here on earth 4 just a little while & that my life is fleeing away.
—Zorayda Torres, *Tarlac City*

is just lent and anytime He culd take it as He wishes to. and so we must be good stewards!
—Ma. ELENA ERANDIO, *sorsogon*

...worthless when nature is not at peace with humans.
—salvacion p. pagauan, *quezon city*

Life is very, very precious, that can be taken away from you in a most unexpected time, so always be prepared. Do all the important things you've been wanting to do.
—June Riz Aguilar, *Antipolo City*

Life is too short, a day gone is a day gone forever. So give your best shot in everything you do, everyday of your life.
—poil Ibarra, *los baños*

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Across the NATION
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Baguio tourism in peril over reports on meningo

BAGUIO CITY—A deadly bacteria that may have killed up to 28 people in recent months has set this picturesque northern resort city on edge, threatening the region's vital tourism industry.

An outbreak of meningococcemia, a disease that targets the central nervous system, has sparked panic and speculation as national and local governments, aided by the World Health Organization (WHO), struggle to control the sickness.

The national government, with WHO assistance, has set up a special "command post" here with a laboratory to speed up detection and analysis of victims and track the spread of the disease, health officials said.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon has tapped a special fund, normally reserved for disaster relief, to buy medicines, laboratory equipment and other supplies to fight the disease.

For this city of 350,000 people located some 205 km north of Manila, the cluster of cases is more than just a public health concern.

Newspaper reports of the outbreak have hurt Baguio's tourism-centered economy, industry leaders say.

"It really caused so much decline in our business in the tourism industry in Baguio," said Anthony de Leon, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio, citing sharp losses in two of the biggest resorts since the start of the year.

Baguio's public order and safety chief Emmanuel Reyes expressed concern that the annual "Flower Festival," a major Baguio celebration scheduled for February which normally brings in thousands of visitors, might be affected.

The health department has tried to reassure the public, saying the meningitis-like disease is not airborne and is spread by people sneezing or coughing or by the sharing of food, drink and utensils.

It has an incubation period of three to four days and symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, bruise-like rashes and eventually skin lesions.

But it can be prevented with simple precautions like maintaining clean surroundings, washing hands frequently, avoiding crowds and not sharing utensils with those infected.

If detected early, it can be treated with penicillin and other drugs.

The officials said there were medicines to prevent and cure it and even vaccines, although such vaccines were too expensive to be distributed to the public.

Health department records showed that almost 60 suspected cases of meningococcemia have been detected in the country since last year with about 90 percent of the cases in Baguio.

Twenty-eight deaths in Baguio are believed to have been due to the disease since March last year.

However, due to the difficulty of testing for the disease, "only five actual cases have been confirmed with only three deaths," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said. *AFP*

A BAGUIO doctor shows the expensive vials of vaccine against meningococcemia. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Firms give vaccines to scores of workers

BAGUIO CITY—Private companies have stepped forward with their own anti-meningococcemia projects here to guarantee that productivity is not slowed down by the fatal meningitis strain.

Texas Instruments Phils. Inc. vaccinated its 2,000 employees last week, using medical stock it imported to avoid disturbing "what is left of local supplies," said Emily Gacad, Tipi spokesperson.

Dr. Antonio Bautista, leader of a local medical team monitoring meningococcemia, told reporters last week that antibiotic and vaccine supplies have dwindled due to the increased demand from the private sector.

Norberto Viera, Tipi president, also sent Mayor Braulio Yaranon 1,000 vaccine vials to supplement the Baguio supply.

The city government is subsidizing the antibiotic drugs it distributes for free to market vendors and barangay residents who are vulnerable to infection.

But Yaranon, in a press statement, said the government could not shoulder vaccination expenses which range from P1,500 to P2,500 per injection shot.

Bautista said more expensive shots involved vaccines that could shield persons against a much wider variety of meningococcemia strains.

Several banks have also sent vaccines to their Baguio branches.

A bank official said their corporate benefits cover such emergencies as meningococcemia infection. Everyone took them up on the bank's offer, he said.

Using vaccines donated by Saudi Arabia, the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) has scheduled a new round of vaccinations today (Tuesday) for Baguio's 5,000 Maranao, Maguindanao and Tausug migrants, who stay in villages identified by the health department as potentially infected areas.

Baguio universities have planned buying their own stock "as the need arises," but a teacher said none of the teaching staffers had been inoculated yet.

Public schoolteachers have been required to wear surgical masks during classes in several grade schools as a precaution.

In the tourist town of Sagada in Mt. Province, health officials reported the death of two babies. An 8-year-old child from Sagada was also admitted at the Bontoc General Hospital.

In Tuguegarao City, vegetable producers there have been capitalizing on the bad press Baguio had been receiving.

Vegetable traders there avoid the La Trinidad vegetable trading center because of reports of seven meningococcemia victims last year. *Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Gobleth Moulic, Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Sayyaf men abduct, execute 3 salesmen from Pampanga

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three salesmen from Pampanga were killed by suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Siasi, Sulu on Saturday (Jan. 8), the Southern Command reported.

Southcom chief Lt. General Alberto Braganza said another salesman survived the killing.

"What we gathered was that they were selling kitchen wares in the hinterlands of Siasi, Sulu when suddenly several armed men abducted them and brought them to an island where they were executed," Braganza told the INQUIRER.

One of the four salespersons, Noel Meneses, 34, of San Juan, Macabebe, Pampanga managed to escape and reported the abduction and killing to the Sulu authorities.

Meneses said they were kidnapped by several armed men who claimed they were members of the Abu Sayyaf.

"*Sabi nila galit sila sa amin dahil mga ahente kami ng* military (They told us they were angry at us because we were military agents)," he said.

Meneses' group was brought to an island named Ilanan, which is still part of Siasi. There, they were ordered to stand in line and were later fired upon.

Meneses said he pretended to have been hit when the suspects started shooting. The bodies of his companions, Reynaldo Yanga, Domingo Soriano and Nestor Bunggay fell on him, he said.

The suspects, Meneses said, left them, thinking that they were all dead. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Diplomats back plans for Hundred Islands

TWO foreign diplomats expressed support for plans prepared by the Alaminos City government to tap the tourism and investment potentials of the Hundred Islands.

Christian Tanghe, Belgian ambassador to Manila, and Robert Balley, charg d' affaires of the United Kingdom, said in an interview with radio station dzBB that they were very impressed with the beauty of the Hundred Islands.

The two were among several other foreign diplomats, including US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, who visited the islands upon invitation by Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza and former President Fidel Ramos.

The diplomats also attended the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Lingayen Gulf landing of US Gen. Douglas MacArthur on Sunday.

"I have visited several places. Hundred Islands is just amazing," Tanghe said.

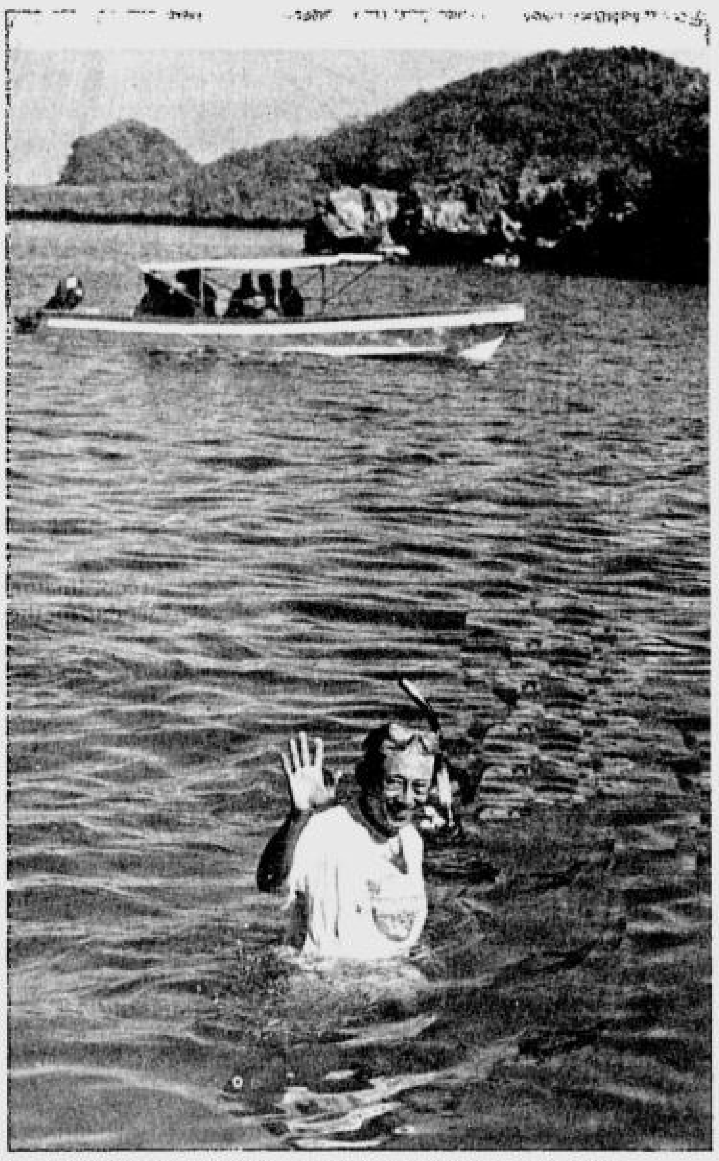
"I only saw the Hundred Islands in photos. I am very impressed. I'll gather more information about the place and get in touch with the mayor at once," said Balley.

"I think the former president and the mayor will succeed with their adventurous plan to redevelop the islands. I can see their enthusiasm and determination," he said.

The diplomats also explored opportunities to invest in the commercial seeding of giant clams.

They earlier visited Barangay San Vicente and took part in the ceremonial planting of high-value crops used as ingredients in *pinakbet*, a favorite vegetable dish of Ilocanos.

Tanghe, Balley and other ambassadors urged constituents to nurture their place and support Braganza.



FORMER President Fidel Ramos swims in the waters of the Lingayen Gulf to attract investors for tourism and development planned by the Alaminos City government, which his nephew, Mayor Braganza, heads. RYAN LIM

Mr. Ramos said the Hundred Islands is a perfect investment hub and tourist destination.

"A fair weather prevails off the islands all throughout the year, I tell you," the former president told the ambassadors and other dignitaries.

Gov. Victor Agbayani said the celebration of the Lingayen Gulf landings would honor not only the thousands of Filipino and American soldiers who fought for the country's independence from Japanese occupation, but also commemorate the ideals and deeds of Filipino soldiers, guerrillas and civilians who sacrificed their lives during the war.

The historic Lingayen Gulf landing on Jan. 9, 1945, began the campaign of the Allied Forces for the liberation of Manila and the rest of Luzon from Japanese forces.

Agbayani led provincial and municipal officials in welcoming the war veterans, including Mr. Ramos and diplomats from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Israel and other countries.

The sunrise ceremony was followed by the opening of a photo exhibit to relive the heroism of the soldiers and their officers, fellowship with war veterans and distribution of commemorative badges and pins. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Center named for Columban priest built to seek peace

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The spirit of Fr. Niall O'Brien continues to live through a peace center built in his name.

Cesar Villanueva, director of the Niall O'Brien Peace Center, said the center was a "fruition of an inspiration" brought about by the Columban missionary priest who worked in the Philippines for 40 years and died of a rare blood disease in April last year.

"Being the founder of Pax Christi in the Philippines in 1993 who served as its national chaplain until his death, O'Brien was an inspiration in his pursuit for bringing back peace into the agenda of the local Church in the Philippines through his works for peace and justice," he said.

Pax Christi is an international Church-based organization that works for promotion of peace.

Fr. Brian Gore, a Columban missionary who was jailed with O'Brien during martial law, blessed the center on Espinos Village Phase II in this city.

O'Brien and Gore were among the three priests and six lay Church workers who were arrested in the mid 1980s after they were falsely charged with the murder of Kabankalan Mayor Pablo Sola and his bodyguards.

At that time, O'Brien was deeply involved in his work to empower the poor and was tagged by the military as a communist.

Negros Nine

The "Negros Nine" were detained for six months after eight months of house arrest. The international attention forced the Marcos regime to drop the charges against the priests in 1984.

Villanueva said they, too, wanted to start a revolution "for reconciliation through our work at the center that will serve as a space where people from all walks of life can gather and build a culture of peace in Negros and the country."

He said the center will continue the work of O'Brien in grassroots education for peace, advocacy work against torture, child soldiers, the death penalty and the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

It will also focus its energies on peace journalism and communications, and parenting for peace and justice that will train couples and young parents in child rearing practices, which will help form future citizens who will be bearers of peace and non-violence.

Villanueva said a core group of parents will be trained to be trainers in parenting for peace and justice so they can have a multiplier effect on others, especially in parishes and small Christian communities.

Negros gov seeks stop to flood of imported sugar

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon has called for immediate action to put a stop to the entry of imported sugar through Customs Bonded Warehouses (CBW) into the local market to protect the domestic sugar industry.

In a "statement of concern on the plight of our sugar producers" issued on Sunday, the governor said all concerned officials should take immediate steps to review the present situation and "take needed measures to correct this apparent inequity."

He also urged sugar federations and associations to do what was necessary to protect sugar producers.

"In the event that these entities remain indifferent, the provincial government then encourages all individual sugar producers to take whatever measures they may deem best to protect their individual interests and those of their workers," he said.

Marañon said that, at the start of the crop year, sugar producers were informed that a wider classification of sugar would be made as a way of surviving a looming crisis to be brought about by falling sugar prices allegedly caused by an oversupply of domestic sugar.

This meant classifying a substantial percentage of sugar produced as reserve and export sugar, lowering the overall composite price with the unending rise in the cost of production, he said.

Marañon said that records received by his office showed that, despite these steps, the entry of imported sugar has remained unabated and "as a matter of fact is presently flooding the bonded warehouses in the country."

"The provincial government of Negros Occidental expresses its deep concern on this apparent conflict of policies and actions being made by government agencies concerned. For how can we deplete sugar supply to stabilized prices and yet at the same time allow imported sugar into the domestic market?" the governor asked.

Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma, however, explained that imported sugar brought in through bonded warehouses are used for products exported out of the country and are not allowed to be sold in the domestic market.

"The imported sugar brought in through CBWs are not entering the domestic market," he said.

Ledesma also said based on records, sugar imported through CBWs dropped by 12,000 tons last year compared to 2003.

He also said mill gate prices of domestic sugar went up in the first week of January by P5 to P10 selling at P710 to P725 per 50-kg bag.

"This is a good sign, we are looking at a steady and sustained improvement of prices from here on," he said. "We are encouraged by the behavior of the market over Christmas."

Bombs, guns in raid 'planted,' says group

From page A1

man Movement, an organization of Islamic converts with alleged links to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network.

Ledesma claim disputed

Mendoza curtly dismissed Ledesma's claim.

"The evidence was not planted," the officer in charge of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group told the INQUIRER in a text message.

Mendoza, in a press statement later, defended the raid, saying it was triggered by "verified information gathered by the CIDG that the Islamic Information Center was being used as a front by radical Islam groups and individuals.

'They're innocent'

"The CIDG assures the public, particularly our Muslim brothers and sisters, that we shall continue to dig deeper into this case if only to go after those who give Islam a bad name, and thereby safeguard public safety and national interest," Mendoza added.

Twelve of the 17 people detained by the police have been freed for lack of evidence while the five others have been charged with illegal possession of explosives and firearms.

Police allowed reporters to see the five—from a distance—at the PNP custodial center in Camp Crame. Most of them wore orange detainee shirts.

Ledesma was among some 50 Muslims who picketed Camp Crame, demanding the release of the five detainees—Afgani Alonto, Muamar Adam, Leonardo Ricalde, Josefino Anor and Alian Napia.

[redacted]

PACER
DETAINEE
PACER
DETAINEE
PACER
DETAINEE
PACER
DETAINEE

FIVE of the 16 suspects behind an alleged bomb plot in Quiapo, Manila, are still detained at Camp Crame. They are (from left) Afgani Alonto, Leonardo Ricalde, Muamar Adam, Josefino Anor and Allan Napia. JOAN BONDOC

"They're not supposed to be there! They're innocent!" an angry Penny Disimban, national president of the Asalaam party-list group, shouted.

Islam's message of peace

Alonto, in particular, could not have been part of any terrorist plot, Ledesma said, adding that Alonto had gone to the Islamic center merely to volunteer his services as an instructor on Arabic and the Koran.

"He's a highly respected Muslim leader," Ledesma said. "He has long been propagating Islam's message of peace and harmony."

Relatives of those arrested said the accusation against their kin was unthinkable.

They said that Alonto, for instance, was among those who led a major antiterror rally in Marawi City in 1994.

"How could anyone of them think of mass killing and on a big Christian fete when they know how Muslims revere Christ, whose miraculous birth is narrated in a whole chapter of the Koran?" said Alonto's brother, Dr. Ahmad Domocao E. Alonto.

Media should check first

The Alontos are sons of the late Sen. Ahmad Domocao Alonto Sr., who authored measures in Congress calling for the "Filipinization" of the Moros and the minority tribes.

A group of Christian lawyers has volunteered to work for the release of Alonto, his relatives said.

In a statement issued in Marawi, the relatives of the Maranao Muslims who were arrested said the "finest thing the media could do is to verify or countercheck reports that tend to suggest that Islam or the Muslims themselves are anti-Christ, because this could fan animosity and it is not good for the communities and people who have spent the best of their times (doing) legitimate businesses."

They said some of the arrested men were in mid-afternoon prayers when the raiders barged in. *With a report from Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Moro rebs overrun Army base

From page A1

ed guerrilla fatalities.

"It's difficult to say how many from the attackers were killed because most often survivors have to carry (away) their slain comrades," he added.

The military said it was using howitzers to shell rebel positions while helicopters fired rockets and machine guns to retake the army outpost.

Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP Public Information Office chief, said eight soldiers were killed and that the base of the 37th Infantry Brigade in Mamasapano was "99 percent overrun" by MILF fighters.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu said field reports he had received put the body count at 13 rebels and six soldiers killed.

Rebels want vengeance

The violence broke out at around 11 p.m. Sunday night when military detachments in Linantangan, Mamasapano and Labolabo in Sharif Aguak—both in Maguindanao—were attacked by the MILF, according to the military.

It said the raid was in retaliation for the death of suspected Abu Suffa leader Bides Binago in a clash with soldiers on Jan. 7 in Sultan Kudarat. Abu Sufia is a small kidnap-for-ransom group.

One of the commanders of Sunday night's attack was identified by the military as Abdul Wahid Tondok, said to be a relative of Binago.

"In the past, clashes were not categorized as institutional fights but more rooted in clan wars, or *rido*, that somehow ended up in armed hostilities," Yano told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

No MILF sanction

"This was an action of an independent group and was not sanctioned by the hierarchy of the MILF," he added.

Yano said military officers in the joint ceasefire panel were asking their MILF counterparts to "take drastic action" against Tondok's group.

Kabalu said the MILF had not established what started the fighting "unless an investigation is conducted."

"We are now being subjected to (105mm firing) and mortar shelling and we expect air strikes any moment," he said on the phone.

Taken hostage?

Reuters quoted Army regional commander Maj. Gen. Raul Rellano as saying: "We have lost six soldiers. The rebels are still holding one soldier but we recovered two others."

"This is a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement," said Rellano. Reinforcements from the 604th Infantry Brigade have been sent to the battle site.

Citing reports from MILF field commanders, Kabalu said that aside from Tondok, involved in the clash was Abdulrahman Binago, a brother of slain Bides Binago.

Kabalu said Abdulrahman Binago was a regular MILF member, while Bides Binago belonged to another group.

"We are trying to prevent the clashes from spreading," he told the INQUIRER.

Air strikes

Two helicopter gunships conducted air strikes at about 7 a.m. to drive away the rebels and allow reinforcements to arrive for the beleaguered elements of the 37th IB.

Philippine and Malaysian officials said the battle would not derail the talks aimed at ending a 35-year-old separatist rebellion that has killed at least 120,000 people and hurt foreign investment and rural development.

Peace talks between the two sides are due to resume as soon as the Malaysian government, which is brokering the talks, sets a date for their resumption. *With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and INQUIRER wires*

DNA samples of missing Filipinos sought

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs yesterday called on relatives of the 18 Filipinos still missing in Thailand to provide DNA samples of their kin to help locate and identify their bodies.

The DFA said in a statement that the samples would be sent to the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok. The samples would be matched with the DNA of thousands of still unidentified bodies collected by Thai authorities.

Samples

DNA samples of the missing Filipinos could be obtained from items they had left behind such as a toothbrush or hairbrush. DNA samples of close relatives, preferably parents or siblings, may also be used, the DFA said.

Five Filipinos in Thailand were confirmed to have died while 18 others are still missing.

The DFA is urging relatives of the missing Filipinos to get in touch with Sheila Solas of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration at tel. 834-4594 or 834-996 or with the 24-hour DFA Action Center at 834-3333, 834-4997, 831-4411 or 831-8874.

Tsunami onslaught

The national central bureau secretariat of Interpol Manila yesterday informed the DFA that the Norwegian police had listed Christine Ramos, a Filipino national, as one of the foreign nationals who survived the tsunami onslaught.

Interpol gave no details about Ramos except to say that she had been located and declared safe.

8-member team

The Philippines has sent an eight-member forensics team to Thailand to help in identifying the numerous fatalities from the tsunami.

The Philippine contingent has volunteered to be the Quick Response Team of the 300-strong, 19-nation Disaster Victim Identification group.

The Philippine team will be given technical and equipment support by Kenyon Worldwide Disaster Management, a private group under contract with the Australian government. *Reports from Jerome Aning and AFP*

Chopper crash, aftershocks rattle relief effort

From page A1

pounds amid fears of rebel attacks.

Indonesian military chief Endriartono Sutarto told The Associated Press that he had heard reports of rebels stealing aid and even briefly kidnapping Indonesian aid workers.

Rebels not responsible

Sutarto said the workers were rescued by Indonesian forces but gave no further details.

Indonesia's military on Sunday warned aid workers that rebels in Aceh were taking shelter in camps for survivors, but the government dismissed those claims on Monday. The government also said rebels were not responsible for a shooting near the main UN compound on Sunday, contradicting earlier assertions by the country's military and police.

Welfare Minister Alwi Shihab said a troubled Indonesian soldier, not a rebel gunman, was responsible for the burst of gunfire. The soldier was in custody, Shihab said.

Aftershocks

Aftershocks from the massive earthquake that spawned the killer waves continued to rattle residents in the hardest-hit countries. A 6.2-magnitude temblor early Monday sent people scrambling from their homes in Banda Aceh, but no injuries or damage were reported.

The tsunami triggered by the devastating earthquake on Dec. 26 killed at least 156,000 people around the Indian Ocean, with Aceh province on the north tip of Sumatra island accounting for almost all of Indonesia's 104,000 deaths.

The giant waves also killed about 30,000 people in Sri Lanka, 15,000 in India, more than 5,000 in Thailand and others in the Maldives, Burma (Myanmar), Bangladesh and several east African nations.

Grim task

Indonesian authorities promised to speed up the grim task of recovering and burying the dead. Welfare Minister Alwi Shihab said 58,281 bodies had been buried in the shattered area on the northern tip of Sumatra island and some 50,000 more are "scattered" around the region.

Some corpses are still trapped in collapsed buildings and rotting under debris in canals and rivers. Their stench still hangs over some areas of the provincial capital.

A bit of good news

But 16 days on since the deadly tsunamis struck, with hope all but gone of finding tens of thousands of missing people alive, came a rare bit of good news.

A 22-year-old Indonesian, Ari Afrizal, was rescued at sea sometime late last week by the United Arab Emirates-registered AL Yamamah, said Sasheila Paramsothy, a spokesperson for the shipping harbor Westport Malaysia.

Ari was swept out to sea when the tsunami hit his home in Aceh, Paramsothy said, adding that the ship crew had not provided other details.

It was the third case of an Indonesian tsunami survivor brought to Malaysia.

Global response

The global response to the disaster has been unprecedented—governments and agencies have pledged more than $5 billion in aid and companies and individuals have promised $1.5 billion.

Rich countries say they will suspend debt repayments of tsunami-hit nations to help free resources for rebuilding.

The Paris Club of creditor nations is ready to agree a debt moratorium for affected countries. Indonesia said it wanted to freeze up to $3.2 billion in repayments until 2007.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, fresh from touring the stricken region, said Washington should plan to provide long-term aid as efforts shift from saving lives to rebuilding communities.

Much of the huge relief effort has been focused on getting food, water and shelter to victims in Aceh, where hundreds of thousands have been rendered homeless.

World Food Program officials told the BBC that they were optimistic no tsunami survivors would lose their lives to hunger, and aid should reach nearly all survivors within a week.

Tons of food, medicine, tents and drinking water are being flown to Banda Aceh in a never-ending stream of aircraft along with doctors, nurses and relief workers.

Exhumation

Thailand, where hundreds of foreign tourists died, said it would have to exhume more than 600 hastily buried bodies for fuller forensic tests. More than 2,000 of the 5,303 known dead in the country have yet to be identified.

In Sri Lanka, children and teachers prepared for a massive cleanup as a new school term started. In many coastal areas, desks are broken, rooms are full of a sodden mess left by the killer waves and some schools are being used as refugee centers.

Overcome trauma

"Lesson one for today: How to clean up after a tsunami," joked parent V.J. Wickramsinghe, who volunteered to help get a school near the coastal city of Galle back into shape.

Social workers hope the resumption of studies will help children overcome the trauma of the catastrophe, which tore apart families and destroyed homes and businesses. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

INQBOX
Win this *Inquirer T-shirt!
Question of the Week
Did government act properly in handling the outbreak of meningococcemia in Baguio City?
Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer T-shirt!
Key in: inquirer news name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Edna at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

EZ2 14 3

SUERTRES 1 1 2

FOUR DIGIT 1 0 2 4

(In exact order)

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil** ■ *Assistant Editor* **Cenon B. Bibe**

MEGALOTTO 6/45 5 10 15 17 20 40

SWEEPSTAKES 1 1 7 9 3 5 S

Guard killed in LRT robbery; ₱0.7M lost

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO ROBBERS in janitors' uniforms struck at the LRT Line 2 station on C.M. Recto Avenue early yesterday morning, killing a security guard and taking with them P700,000 in cash from the cashier's office.

All that remained of the robbers after they left hurriedly was a trail of money bills at the stairs of the fire exit.

Police suspect an insider was involved in the incident.

The two not only wore uniforms similar to those worn by janitors from the Excellent janitorial agency who work at the LRT Line 2, but also turned off the light at the hallway where the security camera was located, indicating they knew where the light was.

Killed in the incident was security guard Arcadio Borja, 28, from the Lockheed Security Agency.

According to SPO3 William Gondranios, Leo Inocentes, a cashier at the station, had just finished counting three days' worth of earnings at the corner of Recto Avenue and Evangelista Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, at around 2 a.m.

Borja was inside the cashier's office at the station's third floor, where he was standing as a witness to the counting according to office procedure.

As Borja was about to leave the office after the counting was over, two armed men barged in and shot Borja, hitting him on the right side of the body.

One of the suspects told Inocentes to lie face down on the floor. They then tied the cashier's hands behind his back with a belt. Inocentes said he did not recognize either of them.

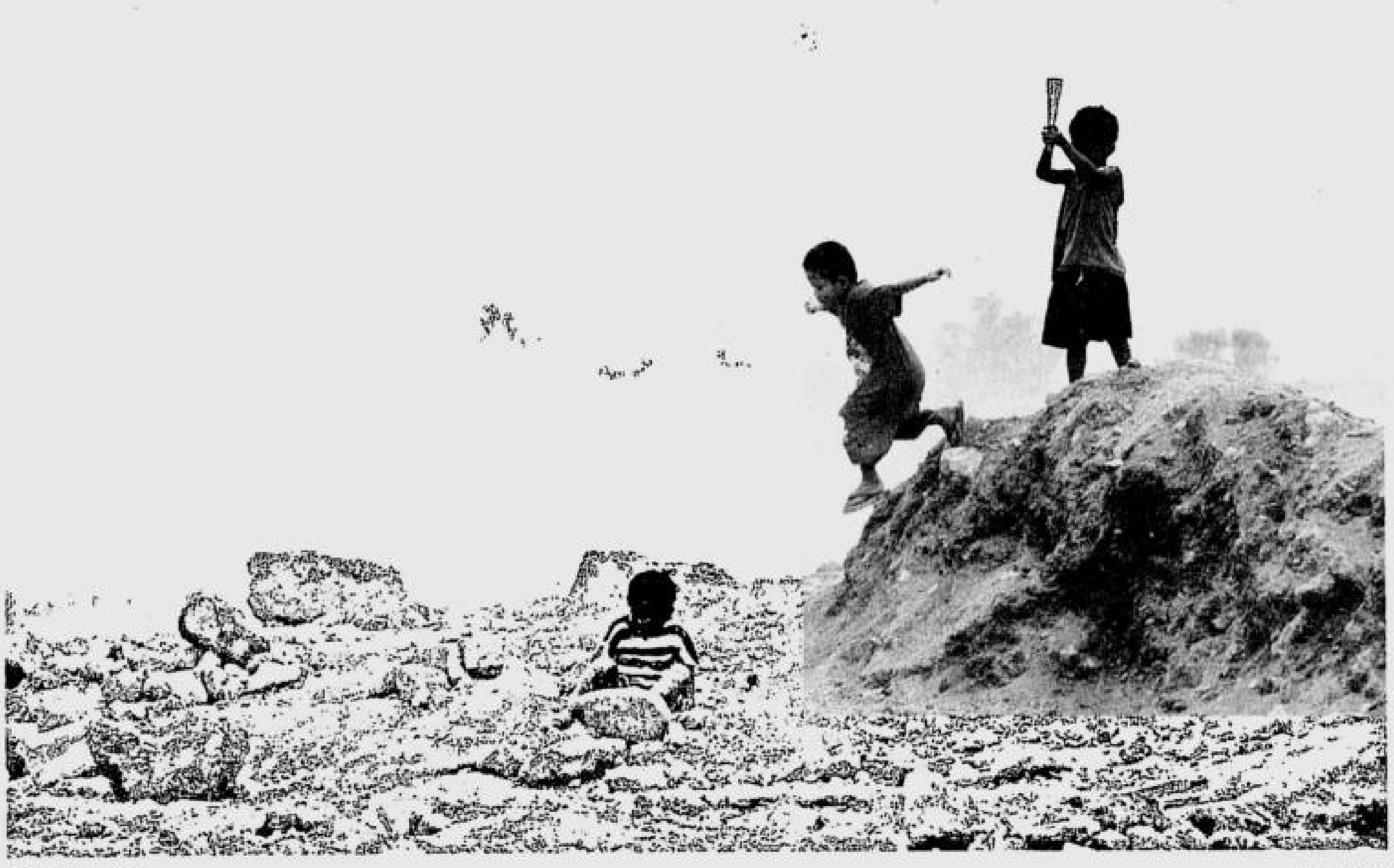
The two suspects later put the money bills in canvas sacks, but left behind the coins. Inocentes said there was around P850,000 in the cashier's office, but only P700,000 was missing.

The suspects also took with them Borja's shotgun and hand-held radio, after hitting Inocentes with a blunt object. The cashier was later able to free himself and immediately called for help.

Borja was rushed to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, where he was declared dead a few hours later.

The four janitors who were on duty at the LRT yesterday were also invited for questioning at the WPD homicide office yesterday, and would be subjected to a paraffin test. They denied involvement in the incident.

Gondranios said they would also find out how the suspects were able to get hold of the janitor uniforms.



REM ZAMORA

PLAYTIME

Children frolic at a dump near the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila. In the evening, the playground is transformed into sleeping quarters for scores of homeless families in the area.

Mayors say rag scheme all wet

THE AGENCY'S new "wet rag scheme" against hardheaded pedestrians is not a violation of human rights, according to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando.

The chair was reacting to criticism from city mayors that citizens' rights would be transgressed if the scheme is approved.

"I don't see any human rights violation here," Fernando said during a press conference yesterday. "Staying in the middle of the road and blocking traffic flow is not a right."

Fernando said blanket-sized rags would be hung "like flags" on the agency's vehicles and wet pedestrians who block the roads and cause traffic jams.

However, he clarified that the agency's enforcers would not pelt wet rags at violators as mentioned in other news reports (not in the INQUIRER).

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the agency would deploy trucks where the wet rags would be hung. He added that the trucks would warn the pedestrians first before using the rags on hardheaded persons who refuse to stay in designated areas.

But Makati and Pasay City officials said they would arrest MMDA personnel who would use the wet rags. Herminigildo San Miguel, director of the city's Department of Public Safety warned that the MMDA risks facing the public's ire and a deluge of lawsuits for violating human rights.

Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad added the MMDA should coordinate with the local government before taking any course of action that would directly affect its constituents.

"What he is proposing is inhuman and embarrassing," said Mandaluyong Mayor Boyet Gonzales, adding that there are alternatives available to make people follow the rules, like the city's own ordinance on jaywalking similar to that of Caloocan's.

Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri added that the plan was "disrespectful."

On the other hand, Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said clearing sidewalks as a preventive measure was a better approach.

"We will not adopt that policy here," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who had always maintained that the MMDA "cannot legislate." Police should instead strictly implement city ordinances pertaining to traffic and public order, including local laws on jaywalking, vagrancy and road obstruction, he said. Margaux C. Ortiz, Nancy C. Carvajal, Ruth L. Navarra, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Tarra V. Quismundo

Give more, receive more

I READ with interest Sunday's story in the INQUIRER about a construction firm owned by a multi-millionaire from Pasig City that has been taking on the lion's share in clearing a highway in storm-battered Real, Quezon.

The construction firm owner doesn't want the public to know his identity. He was the first to respond to appeals for assistance in clearing the road of thick mud, boulders, and debris. Clearing the road paved the way for trucks carrying relief goods and rescue workers.

The construction firm owner knows the workings of the Universe. Whatever seed you plant in the Universal Soil, you reap the same fruit 10 times over.

People who do charity work without expecting anything in return from those they have helped reap benefits more than they bargained for.

Money is not the only reward one gets from being a Good Samaritan to people in distress.

Good health and happiness are the other bonuses. That's why generous people are very happy, healthy, and prosperous.

If you want to lead a successful, prosperous and healthful life, try to be more generous and more caring toward your neighbor. The Universe will take care of you.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

If you don't like the word Universe, then substitute the word God, Allah or Baba. But the thing is your action of helping others sincerely will have a reaction from the Almighty.

* * *

People who tithe don't lack in material things.

Tithing is giving to a church, religious or charitable organizations 10 percent of what you earn.

So one who gives a tithe gets back tenfold, even a hundredfold, what he gives away joyfully to charity.

And the result? The more he gives, the more blessings he receives. And the cycle of giving and receiving continues.

* * *

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla are seeking "full and complete" amnesty for the soldiers who staged the so-called Oakwood Mutiny two years ago.

Vidal told President Macapagal-Arroyo that although he didn't approve of the means adopted by the soldiers to expose graft and corruption in the Armed Forces, the recent scandals involving AFP top brass have validated and confirmed their claims and grievances.

Ah, your Excellency, you're still saying that the end justified the means even if you say the mutineers were wrong in their approach to the problem!

You're saying, Cardinal Vidal, let's forgive and forget what the mutineers did because anyway, they were right about their grievances.

Cardinal Vidal, please don't compare the way of the Church in giving out penalties with the government penal method.

In the Catholic Church, a man who confesses to having raped an 11-year-old girl walks away with 10 "Our Fathers" and 10 "Hail Marys." Not so with the government which would mete out the maximum penalty on the same offender.

And since the mutineers committed a grievous offense against the Filipino people, they should be man enough to face the consequences of their serious misdeed- a long prison term.

Shabu lab caretaker gives up

THE ALLEGED caretaker of the shabu laboratory and warehouses owned by a suspected big-time drug pusher in Davao City surrendered to authorities on Friday with the help of his relatives.

Jessie Jones Pilapil, brother-in-law of suspected drug lord Allan Sy, who gave up to the National Bureau of Investigation is also set to turn himself in to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Sy is the suspected owner of a shabu laboratory and several drug warehouses raided earlier by authorities.

Six of Sy's alleged employees, who were also Pilapil's companions, were killed in the raid when they traded shots with authorities.

Pilapil went into hiding after the shootout.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said in a statement that Pilapil is an industrial engineer by profession and had been a caretaker of Sy's warehouses. Pilapil helped install surveillance cameras and other anti-intrusion mechanisms in the shabu laboratory and warehouses, Wycoco added.

Pilapil's relatives approached the NBI's regional office in Davao on Jan. 6 to coordinate his planned surrender, the NBI chief said. The next day, Pilapil turned himself in to the NBI in Tago, Surigao del Sur, where he had gone into hiding. *Leila B. Salaverria*

E. Inciong; 47

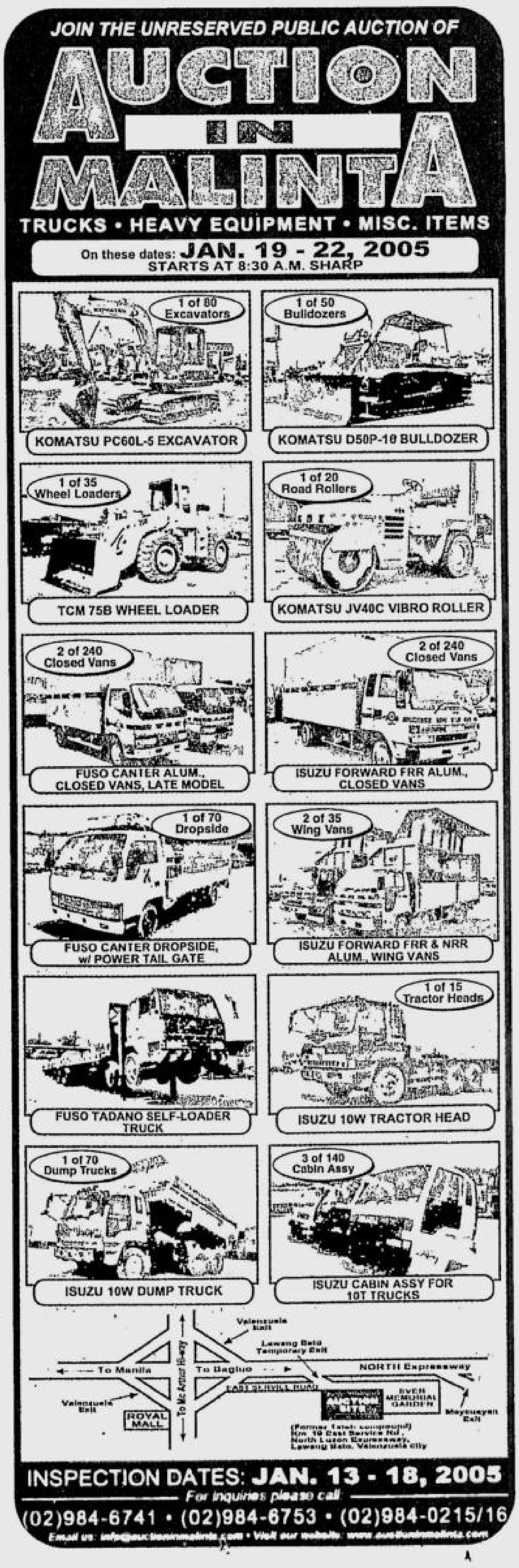
EMMANUEL "Manny" Inciong, of Balayan, Batangas, passed away on Jan. 9. He left behind siblings Alex and wife Maytet; Sandra and husband Bobong; and Apo and wife Gingkoy, former Tribune city editor. His body lies at 199 Caoibes Street, Balayan. Interment is on Jan. 11 at the Balayan Cemetery after a 3 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Church.

MICROVAN

(02) 984-0278/79

MEGA SALE!

on January 19, 2005 • STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP



JOIN THE UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AUCTION IN MALINTA

TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS

On these dates: JAN. 19 - 22, 2005

STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

1 of 80 Excavators
KOMATSU PC60L-5 EXCAVATOR
1 of 50 Bulldozers
KOMATSU D50P-10 BULLDOZER
1 of 35 Wheel Loaders
TCM 75B WHEEL LOADER
1 of 20 Road Rollers
KOMATSU JV40C VIBRO ROLLER
2 of 240 Closed Vans
FUSO CANTER ALUM., CLOSED VANS, LATE MODEL
2 of 240 Closed Vans
ISUZU FORWARD FRR ALUM., CLOSED VANS
1 of 70 Dropside
FUSO CANTER DROPSIDE, w/ POWER TAIL GATE
2 of 35 Wing Vans
ISUZU FORWARD FRR & NRR ALUM., WING VANS
FUSO TADANO SELF-LOADER TRUCK
1 of 15 Tractor Heads
ISUZU 10W TRACTOR HEAD
1 of 70 Dump Trucks
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK
3 of 140 Cabin Assy
ISUZU CABIN ASSY FOR 10T TRUCKS
Valenzuela Exit
Lawang Bato Temporary Exit
NORTH Expressway
To Manila
To Baguio
To Mc Arthur Hi-way
EAST SERVICE ROAD
Valenzuela Exit
ROYAL MALL
EVER MEMORIAL GARDEN
Meycauayan Exit
(Former Tatah compound) Km. 19 East Service Rd., North Luzon Expressway, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela city

INSPECTION DATES: JAN. 13 - 18, 2005

For inquiries please call

(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16

Email us: info@auctioninmalinta.com • Visit our website: www.auctioninmalinta.com

The Philippine National Red Cross helps victims

PNRC Chairman Gordon distributing relief goods to the victims of the recent Quezon calamity.

Children were also given relief goods.

"Thank You!" from PNRC Chairman Gordon and the people of Quezon.

Malaki ang magagawa ng iyong regalo.

Sa text mo, muling maibabalik ang mga ngiti sa puso ng mga kababayan nating nasalanta ng bagyo.

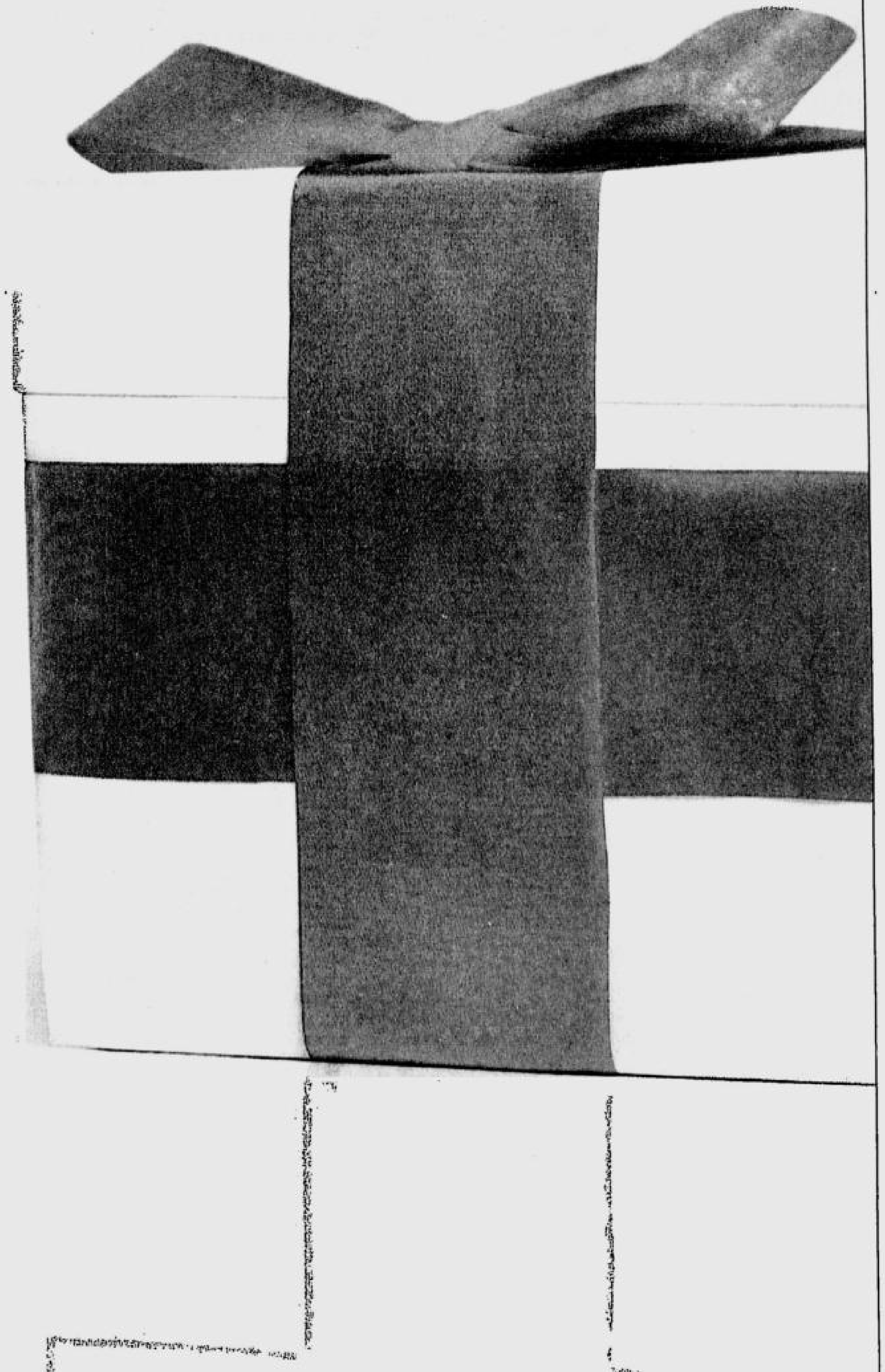
Patuloy ang kanilang pangangailangan.

Patuloy natin silang tulungan.

Maraming, maraming salamat po.

Donate through G-CASH:
Text <amount> <m-pin> to 28829178REDCRS

Donate through your load:
Text RED <amount> to 2899
You can donate the following amounts: P5, P25, P50, P100, P300



Globe HANDYPHONE

touch mobile

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SPORTS
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Temple vs Duke; 6 a.m.; Syracuse vs Notre Dame; 8 a.m. (r-midnight); UConn vs Oklahoma; 10 a.m.; ESPN—Check out this triple-header featuring the heavyweights of college hoops.

TENNIS: 1999 Australian Open Highlights; 10:30 p.m.; STAR Sports—Take a look back at the great moments in Melbourne Park, six years ago.

Mas masayang balita
ADS&CULTURE
Special Section

Pacquiao could end up facing Morales instead

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

FILIPINO ring idol Manny Pacquiao could end up fighting Mexican Erik Morales on March 19 instead if his Feb. 26 rematch with Juan Manuel Marquez falls through over a purse dispute.

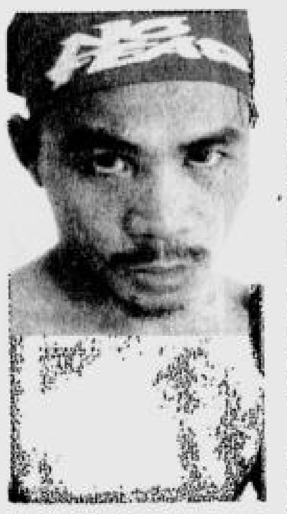
Pacquiao, the Ring Magazine featherweight king, is now planning to move up to 130 lb and seal a more lucrative showdown with the former World Boxing Council junior lightweight champion Morales, according to a report by Boxingtalk's Greg Leon.

The report said a Puerto Rican newspaper El Nuevo Dia had already announced the collapse of Pacquiao-Marquez II after the Mexican WBC/International Boxing Federation featherweight champion insisted on a $1.5 million purse.

Fight brokers unusually silent

"The usually talkative Murad Muhammad surprisingly had no comment when we spoke to him last night," Leon wrote. "Top Rank's Bob Arum and Todd DuBoef were unavailable for immediate comment when Boxingtalk called them on the cellular phones.

"Like Muhammad, Top Rank PR guy Lee Samuels had nothing to say."



PACQUIAO: In waiting

Murad, Pacquiao's US promoter, went to Las Vegas last week to confer with Top Rank officials regarding the Pacquiao-Marquez rematch, but, apparently, both camps were not able to resolve Marquez's purse demand.

"Bob [Arum] and I are trying to straighten out Marquez's situation," Muhammad earlier told Fightnews.

"Marquez took the stand that he believes Pacquiao should not be paid as much as him, or more."

Marquez is to receive $750,000 for the second meeting with Pacquiao set at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. The Filipino champ's purse is $900,000.

Murad explained that while Marquez is staking his two world titles, Pacquiao is the main draw of the fight, hence the Filipino's bigger prize. The two fought to a draw last May.

Ignacio Berestain, the trainer-manager of Marquez, had warned that the rematch might not push through if the row over his boxer's purse is not resolved by mid-January.

In the same report, Murad confirmed that a July bout with Morales was indeed in the works, but said a switch in opponents from Marquez to Morales was "not discussed in today's meeting."

Happy to accept Morales offer

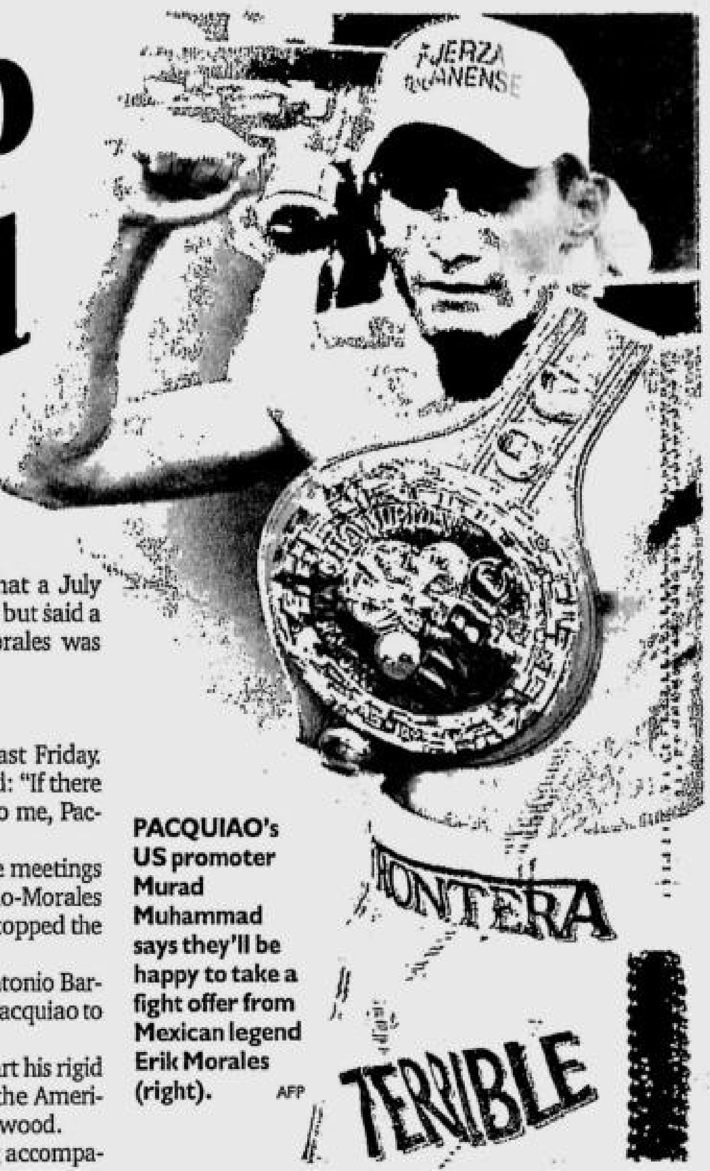
The meeting was supposed to resume last Friday. The American promoter, however, cautioned: "If there is a fight with Erik Morales that is offered to me, Pacquiao and I would be happy to take it."

Nobody knew what transpired during the meetings that followed Friday, but apparently, Pacquiao-Morales on March 19 in an HBO pay-per-view event topped the agenda.

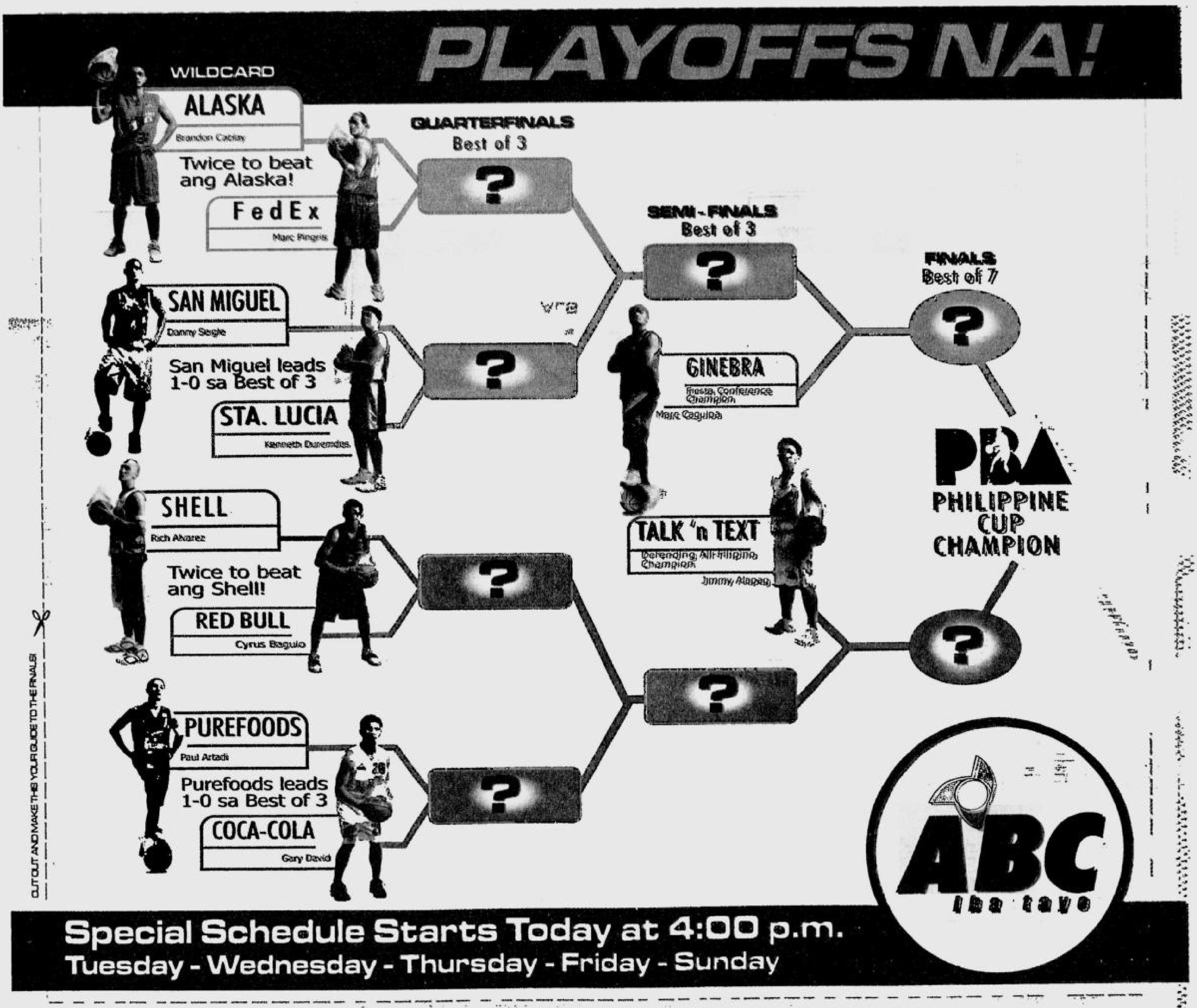
Morales recently lost his title to Marco Antonio Barrera, who is also itching for a rematch with Pacquiao to avenge an earlier loss in November 2003.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao is set to officially start his rigid preparation today under Freddie Roach at the American's Wild Card Gym on Vine Street in Hollywood.

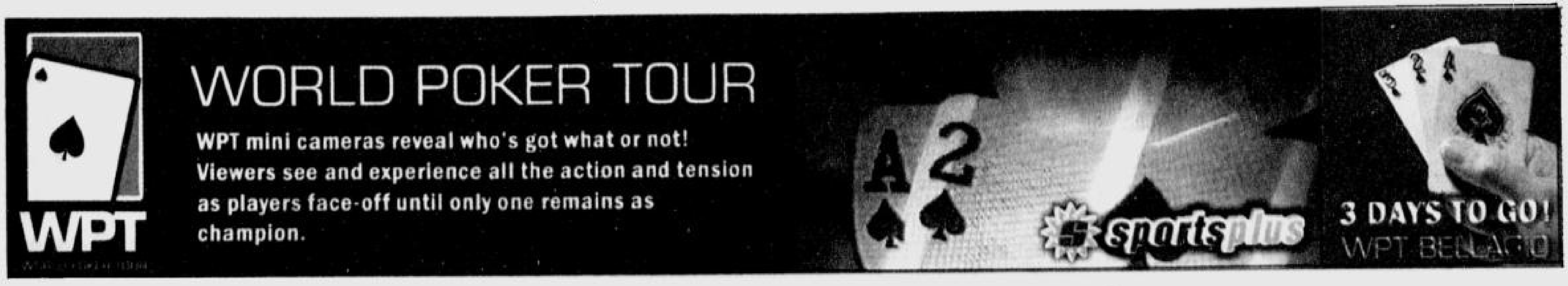
Pacquiao left for the US Saturday evening accompanied by Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez.


FUERZA
ANENSE
MONTERA
TERRIBLE

PACQUIAO's US promoter Murad Muhammad says they'll be happy to take a fight offer from Mexican legend Erik Morales (right). AFP


PLAYOFFS NA!
WILDCARD
ALASKA
Brandon Cablay
Twice to beat ang Alaska!
FedEx
Marc Pingris
SAN MIGUEL
Danny Seigle
San Miguel leads 1-0 sa Best of 3
STA. LUCIA
Kenneth Duremdes
SHELL
Rich Alvarez
Twice to beat ang Shell!
RED BULL
Cyrus Baguio
PUREFOODS
Paul Artadi
Purefoods leads 1-0 sa Best of 3
COCA-COLA
Gary David
QUARTERFINALS
Best of 3
?
?
?
?
SEMI-FINALS
Best of 3
?
?
GINEBRA
Fiesta Conference Champion
Marc Caguioa
TALK 'n TEXT
Defending All-Filipino Champion
Jimmy Alapag
FINALS
Best of 7
?
?
PBA
PHILIPPINE CUP CHAMPION
ABC
iba tayo
CUT OUT AND MAKE THIS YOUR GUIDE TO THE FINALS!

Special Schedule Starts Today at 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday - Sunday


WPT
A
2
sportsplus
3 DAYS TO GO!
WPT BELLAGIO

WORLD POKER TOUR
WPT mini cameras reveal who's got what or not!
Viewers see and experience all the action and tension as players face-off until only one remains as champion.

Shell, Alaska seek quarterfinal berths

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:30 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Shell*
7:20 p.m.—FedEx vs Alaska*
*Twice-to-beat advantage in wildcard phase of elimination round

SHELL and Alaska have two chances to snag a quarterfinal slot but they hope to secure it today against their respective opponents in the wildcard phase of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Armed with twice-to-beat advantages, the Turbochargers, who wound up third after the prelims, will face Red Bull Barako (10th) at 4:30 p.m.

The fourth-seeded Aces take the floor at 7:20 p.m. against the ninth-ranked FedEx Express.

"There are risks if we allow Red Bull to win this game," said Shell coach Leo Austria. "It would shift the momentum to their side and erode the confidence of my players."

With an injury-plagued roster, the Turbochargers will lean on their big fighting hearts against the Barako.

Rensy Bajar, Celino Cruz and Kalani Ferreria are hounded by various ailments while slotman Marlon Legaspi is out for at least two weeks after suffering a partial tear on his right knee.

Ronald Tubid has also aggravated a slow-healing pulled hamstring.

Team doctors said the energetic Tubid would be out for a least a week, forcing the Turbochargers to snatch wingman Roger Yap in a trade with the FedEx Express over the weekend.

In contrast, the Barako are healthy with Vergel Meneses again shoring up their backcourt. Junthy Valenzuela is also back in harness after a foot operation while the Barako has signed up Long David to beef up their frontline.

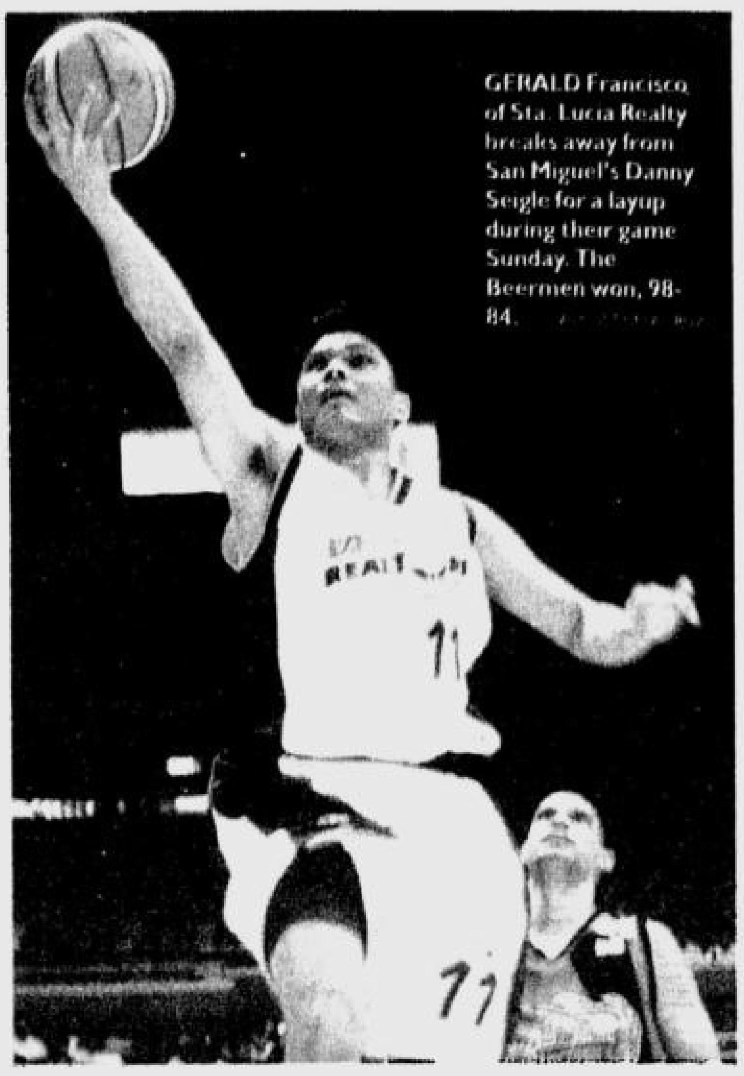
Austria said Billy Mamaril and Chris Jackson could put a body on Enrico Villanueva but problems would certainly crop up in the backcourt with Lordy Tugade, Jimwell Torion and Valenzuela spearheading the Barako's charge.

"As long as we maintain our level of intensity, we can beat them. Talent for talent, they can beat us. But we know their weaknesses," said Austria.

Meanwhile Alaska coach Tim Cone said history favors teams with a twice-to-beat edge in the playoffs.

"Throughout history, only 10-15 percent of the teams which needed to win twice over their opponents became successful," said Cone.

Out of the 52 playoffs in a similar format held since 1996, only six teams had hurdled a twice-to-beat disadvantage. *June Navarro*



GERALD Francisco of Sta. Lucia Realty breaks away from San Miguel's Danny Seigle for a layup during their game Sunday. The Beermen won, 98-84.

Fitness test for RP quintet pool today

THE TWO-WEEKLONG fitness test for the 40 aspirants in the RP training pool will be held today at at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center in Loyola Heights.

National coach Chot Reyes reset the session, originally scheduled yesterday, on the request of the candidates, most of whom are playing in the ongoing PBA Philippine Cup.

"First, we will send out written invitations to the 40 players," said Reyes. "Second, many of them are still unavailable because of the closeness of the announcement date and the start of the tests."

Four Ginebra players—Eric Menk, Jayjay Helterbrand, Mark Caguioa and Romel Adducul—have confirmed their availability today.

"We are working on the confirmation of the Talk 'N Text players," Reyes said, referring to Willie Miller, Mark Telan, Jimmy Alapag and Yancy de Ocampo.

Both the Kings and the Phone Pals have qualified for the semifinal round and have at least a two-week break. The eight other ball clubs play on in the wild card phase and the quarterfinals.

The tests, to run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, will determine the players' agility, stamina, quickness and conditioning.

Reyes announced the names of the 40 candidates, eight of them amateur standouts, Sunday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Of mice and men

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DOES Red Bull have the caliber of a player like Jimmy Alapag?

If the answer is yes—and I am inclined to say yes—then Shell is properly forewarned when it battles Red Bull today for a quarterfinal slot in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup.

Shell lost to Talk 'N Text on Jan. 7 because of Jimmy Alapag.

In that game, Alapag scored TNT's last seven points—one triple and four straight charities. You are a jerk if you won't consider that a gargantuan effort by a Lilliputian like Alapag.

Nicknamed "Mighty Mouse" for his propensity to explode with mostly improbable shots despite his diminutive size, Alapag, just barely 5-foot-8, fired a triple when virtually nobody was looking.

In the all-too-familiar cops-and-robbers play, Alapag unchained himself from Celino Cruz to fire the three that broke a 78-all deadlock, giving TNT an 81-78 bubble with just ticks left to play.

Before any Turbocharger could properly react to what had happened, Alapag was off and scooting to a blazing finish very typical of the kid who won Rookie of the Year honors in 2003 running away.

After tossing in four more charities in a span of 12 seconds, Alapag's seven straight points against a lone Shell charity keyed TNT's 85-79 victory, giving the Phone Pals the luxury of advancing to the semifinals outright in the company of first semifinal qualifier Ginebra San Miguel.

A team loses that way, a coach can only shake his head, either in anger over his ward's inability to shackle his prey till kingdom come, or in awe of the man who wreaked havoc on his team.

I immediately raised a glass to Alapag even before the final buzzer could be sounded. Why, his total of 15 points was a far cry from his career-high 39 points in TNT's losing effort to Ginebra on Dec. 25. And yet, that 15 was enough to make TNT a winner. Which, again, means that quality is always better than quantity. If Alapag's triple-triggered seven points wasn't quality, what is?

I can see three Barakos play *a la* Alapag: Junthy Valenzuela, Jimwell Torion and, yes, even Topex Robinson. They are the Red Bull's three "Mighty Mice." On any given night, each of them can inflict damage.

Is Shell ready? Finally?

Red Bull may be disadvantaged by the twice-to-beat burden but Yeng Guiao is as cunning a coach as can be that to undermine his guile is like saying Houdini was a myth.

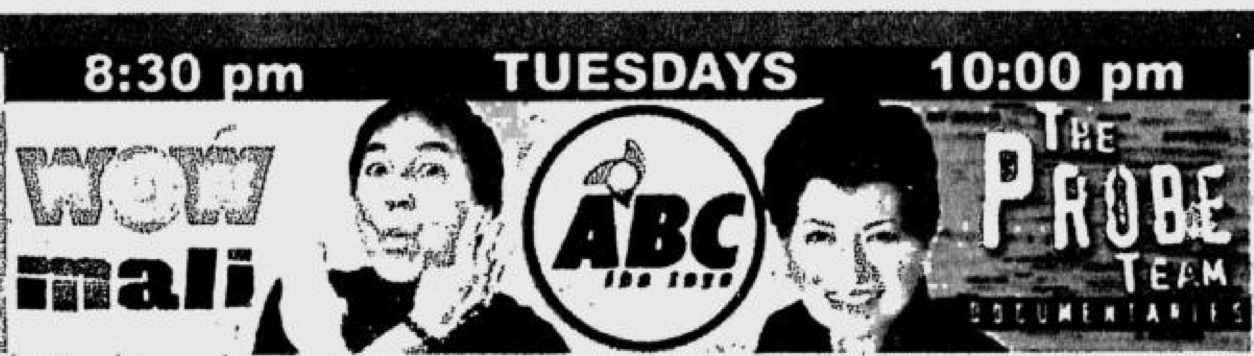
Like boxing, basketball, most often than not, is played without letup up to the last buzzer. In short, with a lapse happening in a fleeting moment, just one mouse can create a mountain of troubles—at times, disastrous. Fatal.

The Alapag example is too recent to be forgotten.

***

FASTBREAK. Nonong Fernandez and his Austrian wife, Astrid Hoffered, will enplane for Glan, Austria, today after spending joy-filled weeks in Marikina and Roxas City, and some quality hours in Mangatarem and at Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan. "We will miss the Philippines but we will be back as soon as we can," said the couple, whose son, Patrick, 19, came here last year with them. Their two daughters, Tanya and Serafina, also visited some years back. The couple vowed to make the Philippines their first priority from hereon when planning for future vacations outside of Austria. "Nothing beats our country in terms of warmth and hospitality," said Nonong, who, as a young med tech, flew to Austria in the '70s and soon got himself snared-willingly, that is—by the beauteous Astrid when romance bloomed. Bon voyage and, as the couple loves to say when it's parting time, *"Aufwiedersehen, mein fruend!" Hasta la vista!*

8:30 pm TUESDAYS 10:00 pm



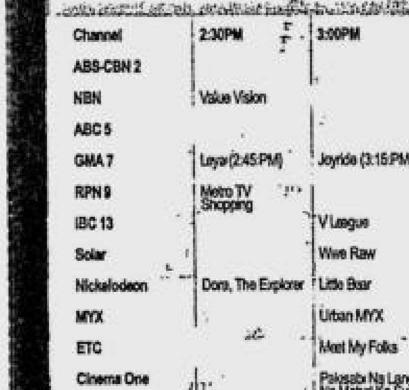
ClickTheCity.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Bida Si Mister Bida Si Misis			Insider	Pipol
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision		APEC Primer 2		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Musconi Cup 2003				Auto Focus	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	KNN	Anime Ring Kasho				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	Three Blind Dates		Wow Mali		Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		Race Hour	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45PM)	Joyride (3:15PM)	Snow Angel (3:45PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15PM)		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	8 Simple Rules	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Crossing Jordan		John Doe		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		V League				IBC Express Balita		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topic		Global Family Series		Entrepinoy	Good Take	Travel	IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
Solar		Wwe Raw				Mutant League	Heavy Gear	Maxsteel	Dungeons And Dragons	Stargate SG1		Soldier Of Fortune		RHD/LA		The Wire		Oz	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix		100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd				Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Meet My Folks		The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Knock First	One Tree Hill		The O.C.		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One		Pakisabi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Sya				Do Re Mi				Milan				Starzan				Sagot Kita Mula Ulo Hanggang Paa	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Survivor Thailand	MYX Backtrax					X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Fightbox	The Amazing Race 6		Smallville		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		The Men's Room
AXN		The Amazing Race		Maximum Exposure		Fear Factor		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	7 Days		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias		The Amazing Race		Maximum Exposure	
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Road Trip/ Charmed		The Apprentice/ Wild Card		Manhunt: The Search For America's Most Gorgeous Male Model		Friends	Road Trip
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters		Lost Subs		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials/Built For The Kill		Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters	
Solar Sports		ATP Heineken Open '04 SF1				Phil-9 Ball Open '04 Finals				Copenhagen Masters MS Final			NBA TV Daily	NBA Sn Antonio vs. Utah					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	It's Good To Be	A Second Look		Look For Less	Style Star	Road & Track	Back To Basics	Clean House	
HBO			Charlotte's Web II: Wilbur's Great Adv		Chattanooga Choo Choo (4:40PM)				Life As A House (6:20PM)				The Tuxedo (8:20PM)			Six Feet Under 28: You Never Know		Virtuosity (10:50PM)	
Star Movies				Maiden Voyage			A Rumor Of Angels			That Thing You Do! (7:10PM)				Far From Heaven				American Psycho 2 (10:50PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename: Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		FA Cup Highlights 2004 Int'l. Chall of Champs Linc. CT USA World Pool Masters '04 Ann Ziss Premier Snooker League '04				Sportscenter Taiwan	World Pool League '04 Warsaw, Poland		Premier Snooker League '04 Cardiff Wales				Sportscenter Asia						
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Unlikative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax		Sugartime			Around The World In 80 Days						The Greenskeeper			The Life Of David Gale				On Hostile Ground	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	David Copperfield				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Agency II		Just Cause		David Copperfield			Changi (10:35PM)		Agency II (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Civilisations				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Science Mysteries	
MTV Philippines		MTV Live		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	MTV Lokal		Non-Stop Hits	MTV Bolahan	TRL		Punk'D	Wildboyz	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus	FED Cup SFinal Russia vs Austria						NFL Gameday	Acc Basketball Clemson @ Duke				Raceworld		Slipstream		Pac 10 Arizona @ California			
EWTN	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Angelus (3:15PM)	Mysteries Of The Rosary	My Little Angels	Angel Force	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Fr. Groeschel	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	EWTN Gallery	The Journey Home		Does The Church Still Teach That	Lord, Have Mercy	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	We Are One Body	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Jaworski as PSC chair?

ROBERT Jaworski: Popular option? JESS YUSON

IF RUMORS are to be believed, the sports community has not seen the last of Robert Jaworski.

Philippine Sports Commission sources said yesterday the former senator, basketball star and coach, who suffered a stinging defeat in his Senate reelection bid last May, is set to take over as PSC chair when he becomes eligible for the position.

Former members of Congress who lost in the last elections may be appointed to a public office a year after the vote.

The sources added that the PSC post was one of the concessions assured Jaworski in case he failed to make it as a candidate in the administration ticket of President Macapagal-Arroyo last year.

Jaworski made it to the Senate in 1997 under the opposition banner, riding the crest of his popularity as a former national player and standout in the Philippine Basketball Association and later as coach of the popular Ginebra squad.

If Jaworski makes it to the PSC, the administration of RP sports now becomes a family affair with the father-in-law of his eldest son Robert "Dudot" Jr., former Tarlac congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, now serving as president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Dudot, now a congressman, is married to Mikee Cojuangco, who won an equestrian gold medal in the 2002 Busan Asian Games in South Korea.

The PSC is being run by officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez, a PSC commissioner, after Eric Buhain was transferred to the Games and Amusements Board last month.

Since the creation of the PSC, there has never been an OIC who went on to become the full-pledged chair as in the case of former OICs Dominador Cepeda and now Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella.

Meanwhile, Alliance of Coaches and Athletes of the Philippines (Acap) president Bay Cristobal welcomed the appointment of Ramirez, saying his group is not out to create trouble for the PSC.

Cristobal, a national basketball coach, said Ramirez had already met Acap officials three times and discussed the basic needs of the national athletes and coaches under the PSC roster.

"Acap is not here to just protest and demand," said Cristobal of the group known for holding rallies in the past against the leadership of Butch Tuason and Buhain to protect the welfare of its members.

Cristobal said Acap has high hopes for Ramirez, whom he feels has showed sincerity in their meetings.

Ramirez is set to meet the whole membership tomorrow to discuss, among other things, the retention of the monthly allowance of the Class C athletes who have been stricken off the PSC payroll.

"We have to move forward. We have been left behind by other countries," added Cristobal. "We should put our acts together. This year we promise to give the country something to be proud of." *With a report from Marc Anthony Reyes*

Jewels seek premium slot again today

ONE win is all Welcoat needs.

And the Paintmasters are hoping to get it—and the twice-to-beat bonus—against Air Philippines in the PBL Open Championship today at the Pasig Sports Center.

Denied an opportunity to clinch the No. 4 slot last Thursday, Welcoat expects easy sailing starting at 2 p.m. against the cellar-dwelling team it routed, 84-64, in the first round.

In the second game, Montaña Pawnshop will try to play a spoiler's role in AMP-Ateneo's quarterfinal bid at 4 p.m.

League-leading Montaña and Magnolia-FEU have long secured the two outright semifinals slots, while Granny Goose recently secured the first of two twice-to-beat privileges in the quarterfinals.

Welcoat could have been the second team to claim the privilege, but the veteran squad surprisingly lost to lowly AMP-Ateneo, 67-57, last Thursday.

Observers attributed the loss in part to the poor performance of Chester Tolomia, Welcoat's second leading scorer with an 11.6 point average who has been shut out in two games now.

AMP-Ateneo, meanwhile, tries to keep its quarterfinal bid alive against the Jewels, who are going for their sixth straight win and own an 82-67 win over the Eagles in the first round.

Even without star Alex Compton, who's nursing a right calf injury, the Jewels remain formidable with Al Vergara, Francis Mercado and Eric dela Custa raising their level of play lately. *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Montaña	10	2
Magnolia-FEU	10	3
Granny Goose	8	5
Welcoat	6	6
ICTSI-La Salle	5	8
Toyota Otis-Letran	5	8
AMP-Ateneo	4	8
Air Philippines	2	10

GAMES TODAY
(*Pasig Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Air Phils. vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Montaña vs AMP-Ateneo

JON-DAN Salvador of Montaña drives past Paolo Hubalde of Air Philippines in their previous encounter. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

8th Samsung Int'l Jungolf under way

THE EIGHTH Samsung Philippine International Junior Championship officially kicks off with the staging of the traditional opening ceremony at 5 p.m. today at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

"We are off and running," said Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Boy" Cantada yesterday.

Broadway star Lea Salonga has been invited as the tournament's special guest.

Highlighting the opening ceremony is the parade of all the participants and team officials from eight countries.

Actual competition will start tomorrow with 120 of the region's top juniors competing for individual honors in the tournament where Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. is the title sponsor.

Tee-off time is 8 a.m.

Other countries represented in the event ending Friday are Malaysia with 12, South Korea nine, Thailand and Indonesia eight each, Singapore three and Taiwan one. Hong Kong is represented by 13 players.

Players from Metro Manila and the cities of Cebu, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro will banner the Philippine campaign.

Cantada's son Gerard will again assist in the staging of the unique event he launched in 1998 to provide an international tournament for the region's junior stars.

Aside from the usual waiving of fees, Cantanda will also treat the players, their parents and team officials to free breakfast, lunch and snacks at the venue.

Philtobo head nixes another EIA testing

NILES: Sympathy

THE OPPOSITION to the Philracom directive on equine infectious anemia (EIA) found a major ally when Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo) president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr. refused to have his horses tested a second time last week.

Niles, one of the country's top horsemen-breeders, rejected the new round of testing in sympathy with his co-owners, who claimed their investments have been hard hit by the order that left them stuck with banned horses.

As this developed, the protesting group led by William Dagan, Francisco Araneta, lawyer Narciso Morales and Cesar Azurin expressed optimism more owners "will finally see the light that the immoral and illegitimate order is anti-business and a cheap ploy designed to benefit only a favored few."

"A true leader has stood up, and we are optimistic more of our colleagues will follow suit," the group said.

It said Niles' refusal is expected to make all three major clubs—Philtobo, Marho and Klub Don Juan de Manila—take a closer look at mandatory EIA testing, which has led to 221 erstwhile active horses, most of them owned by club members, being ordered destroyed by the Philracom.

The three clubs have been under fire for the past several months for reportedly backing the Philracom.

Critics put the clubs to task for not holding dialogs first with their respective members.

Sources said the Philracom was trying to have Niles reconsider.

Tricky MGC to test RP Ladies field

By Musong R. Castillo

THE EXCLUSIVE Manila Golf Club course will play longer than usual when the Smart Philippine Ladies' Open tees off tomorrow.

And with the greens expected to be blinding fast and slick, Jennifer Rosales doesn't see a lot of red numbers on the leaderboard.

"Anything around par will win it," said Rosales, winner of this tournament five straight times but never once with an under-par aggregate.

Her coach, Bong Lopez, agrees.

"*Traydor itong* course *na ito* (This course is tricky)," Lopez said. "This is not an easy course, I think three-over-par has a great chance of winning."

Meanwhile, Rosales, whose streak of five consecutive victories from 1994 remains the biggest singular feat in the Open, leads the hitting of the ceremonial drives today in traditional rites ushering what promises to be an explosive showdown among the region's young stars.

Rosales has become a legitimate star in the US LPGA after winning her first championship last season.

AGOJO

BONDAD

Among those invited by the organizing Women's Golf Association of the Philippines to join Rosales on the first tee are First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo; Napoleon Nazareno, president of the sponsoring Smart Communications; Judge Cesar Cruz, president of the host Manila Golf Club; National Golf Association of the Philippines president Benny Gopez and WGAP president Nancy Ortiga.

The MGC, a 6,325-yard gem inside plush Forbes Park in Makati, is still undergoing repair work, leaving a number of its fairways soggy.

But its greens, planted to Zoysia Matrella grass, remain one of the best in Asia.

"A long-hitter will have an advantage, definitely," Lopez said. "There are a lot of good tee-to-green players in the field. The greens will spell the difference."

According to Lopez, the course superintendent will trim the greens to a 10-12 speed. The course, he said, was playing easier the last few days because the greens rolled to a speed of only eight.

Rosales' familiarity with the course proved vital in her US stint. LPGA events usually play to only 6,100-6,200 yards, said Lopez.

Australia-based defending champion Frances Bondad and homegrown bet Jayvie Agojo remain the country's brightest hopes. A slew of challengers from Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore will crowd them for the crown.

Football body lifts Lozano suspension

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation's board of governors, acting on a recommendation by its president, Johnny Romualdez, has unanimously agreed to lift the suspension of coach Tomas Lozano.

Lozano, a Spanish expatriate married to a Filipina, was meted a five-year suspension by the PFF disciplinary committee in 2003 for falsifying the ages of players vying in the Gothia Cup.

The board of governors arrived at the decision during a meeting last Dec. 1 in Cebu City.

An appeals committee created by former PFF president Rene Adad earlier reduced the penalty to a three-year suspension, prompting the resignation of disciplinary committee chair Eric Ingles.

Suarez nails TC crown

FORMER World Cup champion CJ Suarez crushed Benny Dytoc, 202-138, in the finals to bag the 1st Philippine Bowling Congress' Tournament of Champions last Sunday at the Green Valley Country Club lanes in Pasig City.

Carrying the colors of PBAP-Bowlmart-adidas-Rotogrip-Wave, Suarez made it to the eight-man finals in sixth spot with a 12-game series of 2532. But he waxed hot in the head-to-head matches to eliminate Joonee Gatchalian, 247-194 and Eric Aranez, 202-190, to arrange a showdown with Dytoc.

Dytoc knocked out Richie Poblete, 300-227, and Jorge Pudadera, 217-172, en route to the finals.

SUAREZ tops star-studded cast

Suarez won a trophy and the P40,000 top prize in the tournament staged by PBC special projects chair Jaime Dychauco and sponsored by MTBAA.

Dytoc, who rolled a perfect game 300 together with Frederick Ong, earned P20,000.

Mar Serac, the qualifying leader with a 12-game series of 2596 pins, and the five other finalist—Pudadera (2589), Gatchalian (2575), Poblete (2537), Liza del Rosario (2531 and Aranez (2517—also pocketed substantial cash prizes.

Dytoc and Ong received a gold ring each for their 300s.

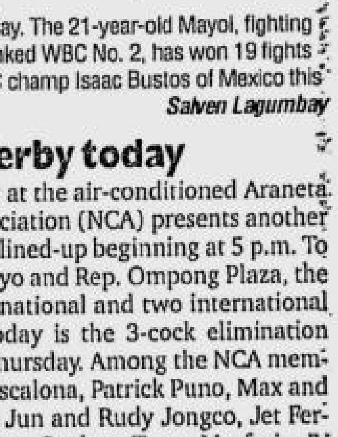
Thirty of the country's leadng bowlers, including four-time World Cup titlist Paeng Nepomuceno, saw action.

Despite playing without practice, Nepomuceno still managed to score 2379 for a 198 average. He finished in a tie for 18th place with Tyrone Ongpauco.

SPORTSWATCH

Indon willing to take on Mayol

UNDEFEATED Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation minimum weight kingpin Rodel Mayol has finally found somebody who is willing to trade punches with him on Jan 29 at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque. Marti Polii of Indonesia has stepped forward to engage Mayol in a 12-round bout after original opponent Phalangchai Sor Vorapin was scratched by OPBF president Frank Quill after the Thai failed to join the top 10 of the OPBF's latest rankings. Polii will be ranked No. 2 by the OPBF following his knockout victory over erstwhile No. 2 and compatriot La Syukur. "We have been looking for a suitable opponent for Mayol. Finally, Polii has come forward," said promoter Lope Sarreal Jr. in an interview yesterday. The 21-year-old Mayol, fighting out of Stonewall Boxing Gym of Cebu and ranked WBC No. 2, has won 19 fights with 15 KOs. He is looking for a crack at WBC champ Isaac Bustos of Mexico this year.
Salven Lagumbay


OPBF champ Rodel Mayol

NCA presents 7-cock derby today

BIG time cockfighting continues today at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum as the National Cockers Association (NCA) presents another 7-cock derby with more than 60 fights lined-up beginning at 5 p.m. To be hosted by sportsmen Raymond Velayo and Rep. Ompong Plaza, the event is the second of 17 derbies (15 national and two international derbies) lined-up by NCA. On tap today is the 3-cock elimination round while the championship is on Thursday. Among the NCA members are Frank Berin, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Patrick Puno, Max and Bebot Roxas, Ruel Feliciano and sons, Jun and Rudy Jongco, Jet Fernando, Madlambayan brothers, Efren Canlas, Tony Marfori, JV Magsaysay, E. Nagano and Boyet Joson; Rudy Albano, Edgar Santos; Chito Bersamin, Ruel Ricafort, Claude Bautista and Ompong Plaza.

BEST RECORD

Suns sear Pacers; Sonics win

NEW YORK—Shawn Marion had 21 points and Amare Stoudemire contributed 20 and 14 rebounds as the Phoenix Suns crushed the Indiana Pacers, 124-89, on Sunday, improving their NBA best record to 30-4.

It was the largest margin of victory this season for the streaking Suns and their sixth straight win surpassed last year's win total with still over half the schedule remaining.

The Suns wasted no time taking control of the contest, storming to a 35-17 first quarter lead.

Phoenix got contributions from nearly everyone up and down the lineup with seven players figuring in double digits, Joe Johnson hitting for 15 points, Quentin Richardson 14 and Steve Nash, Steven Hunter and Maciej Lampe 10 apiece.

In Seattle, Vladimir Radmanovic poured in 27 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, sparking the SuperSonics to a 108-98 win over the Miami Heat.

It was the second time in six days the SuperSonics had beaten the Heat, having snapped Miami's franchise record 14-game winning steak on Monday.

Danny Fortson had a double-double for Seattle, contributing 18 points and 10 rebounds to the cause while Ray Allen had 15 points and seven assists.

Shaquille O'Neal had a game high 28 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the Heat.

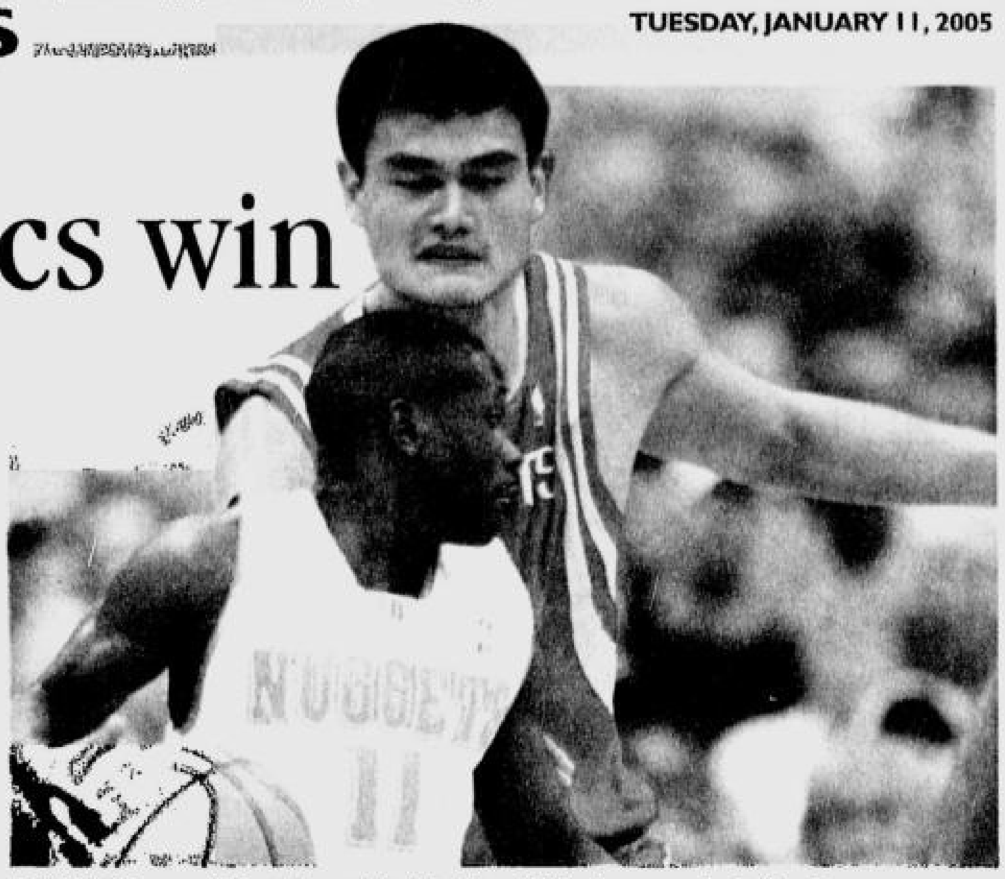
In Denver, Tracy McGrady had 45 points and Yao Ming added 21 and seven rebounds as the Houston Rockets dumped the Nuggets, 116-98.

Carmelo Anthony, Denver's leading scorer who has been slowed by nagging ankle injuries, was back in form draining 27 points but the Nuggets' woes continue as they suffered their fourth straight loss and 10th in 11 games.

In Toronto, Chris Bosh had his fourth straight double-double pouring in 21 points and snaring a career high 17 rebounds to power the Raptors to a 109-87 win over the faltering Golden State Warriors, who absorbed their fifth straight loss.

Morris Peterson also had 21 points for the Raptors while Rafer Alston broke out of a long scoring slump, hitting for 15 points after missing 23 consecutive shots.

Trailing by two at the half, the Raptors outscored the Warriors, 36-17, in the third quarter to register their third win in four games. *Reuters*



DENVER Nuggets' 5-foot-5 guard Earl Boykins (11) looks to pass the ball under pressure from Houston Rockets' 7-foot-6 center Yao Ming. AP

Expectant father Appleby retains Mercedes crown

Singh falters with a 74

APPLEBY hoists the winner's trophy after capping his come-from-behind victory in the Mercedes Championships. He became the first back-to-back winner in the 22-year history of the event. AFP

NEW YORK—Australia's Stuart Appleby capped a stirring comeback with a final round six-under-par 67 on Sunday to overhaul a faltering world number one Vijay Singh and successfully defend his Mercedes Championships title.

With his wife back in Australia about to give birth to their first child, Appleby appeared to have other things on his mind during Thursday's opening round when he was just one of four players in the winners-only field of 31 to finish above par.

However, Appleby played error-free golf the rest of the week at the Kapalua Plantation course in Hawaii, stringing together three bogey-free rounds to finish at 21-under-par and one stroke ahead of American Jonathan Kaye.

The Australian's victory enabled him to become the first back-to-back winner in the 22-year history of the event, collecting a winner's purse of $1.06 million and a luxury car.

"I think you would have gotten pretty long odds after watching me play in round one," Appleby said after registering his sixth career win. "It's surprising, you look at where I was after round one and no one would have put any money on me.

"I was getting on roll, working my way into contention. I was just doing my own thing, run hard across the line and hope I had my nose in front at the finish." The low scoring seen in the opening three days was missing during the final round as winds and thunderstorms rumbled across Maui, dumping five centimeters of rain on the course.

Due to inclement weather, start times were moved but storms delayed play for four hours before official could send the players off in threesome from the first and 10th tees.

Singh, who led at the end of the first three days following three bogey-free rounds, began the day with a one-stroke advantage over Kaye.

However, the Fijian winner of 11 straight events when leading after 54 holes saw his chances of a victory disappear with a triple bogey on the par-four 13th, finishing three shots back at 18-under and tied for fifth.

Despite struggling with his putting the entire week, Tiger Woods launched his 2005 campaign on a positive note, firing a final round five-under-par 68 to finish in a tie for third, two shots adrift alongside South Africa's Ernie Els.

"I think I had 300 putts this week," Woods joked. "This was just one of those weeks when I didn't hit anything.

"The good news is I was striking the ball well and if I play this well all year my putting will be there." Els made a late charge to challenge for the lead with birdies on 15 and 16 to trail by one, but any hope of forcing a playoff ended when an errant tee shot at the last led the twice US Open champion to falter with a bogey six.

It was an erratic final round for Els, who had four bogeys to offset six birdies in his two-under 71.

Australia's Adam Scott fired the low round of the day, closing with four consecutive birdies to finish at eight-under 65, three shots off the pace tied for fifth with Singh and Stewart Cink. *Reuters*

Grand Slam choker story has no basis, says Hewitt

HEWITT

SYDNEY—Australia's Lleyton Hewitt denied he had a history of choking in his home Grand Slam tournament Monday and brushed aside suggestions world number one Roger Federer had a psychological stranglehold over him.

World number three Hewitt said he was intent on improving his poor record in next week's Australian Open, where he has never made it past the fourth round.

Speaking at the Sydney International warm-up tournament, where he is top seed, the former Wimbledon and US Open champion denied pressure to become the first local to win the Australian Open since Mark Edmondson in 1976 was weighing on his preparation.

He said there were valid reasons for his recent early exits from the Melbourne tournament—an in-form Federer last year, a "freak" performance by Morocco's Younes el Aynaoui in 2003 and a bout of chickenpox in 2002.

Big matches

"I've played enough big matches in Australia that the pressure of playing in Australia doesn't bother me at all," he said.

Hewitt lost to Federer five times in 2004, including a defeat in the US Open final and early exits from the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

He said he was not allowing the losses to play on his mind, particularly as the Swiss player had "taken the game to another level" in the past 18 months.

"It doesn't beat you up, especially as there's no shame right now in losing to Roger, he's a hell of a player and he's going to go down as one of the greatest," Hewitt said.

The Australian said he would concentrate on getting past the fourth round of the Open then consider the challenge posed by Federer when the time came.

"To come out and just think that you've got to worry about Roger Federer, then at the end you probably won't get to have a crack at him anyway," he said.

Hewitt faces Slovakian Karol Beck on Tuesday and said he was looking forward to a hit out ahead of the Melbourne tournament.

Profile player

Swede Thomas Johansson was the highest profile player in action Monday. The tournament seventh seed beat Germany's Florian Mayer, 6-2, 7-5, their first round match.

Australian wildcard Wayne Arthurs beat Filippo Volandri of Italy, 7-6, 6-7, 6-3.

In the women's draw, Chinese qualifier Shuai Peng defeated American Moshona Washington in straight sets and Bulgarian veteran Magdalena Maleeva overcame initial resistance from Australian youngster Sophie Ferguson to triumph, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2. *AFP*

Peyton keys Colts' rout of Broncos

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Peyton Manning passed for 457 yards and four touchdowns as the Indianapolis Colts rolled to a 49-24 rout of the Denver Broncos in the first round of the National Football League playoffs on Sunday.

Manning, whose passing total was the second-highest single-game total in playoff history, dismantled the Broncos with ease in the American Football Conference wild card game.

He completed 27-of-33 passes, except this time his favorite receiver was Reggie Wayne, who caught 10 passes for 221 yards and two touchdowns.

Bernie Kosar holds the playoff record with 489 passing yards for the Cleveland Browns in an overtime victory over the New York Jets in 1986. Manning had 360 yards by halftime, but threw for just 20 yards in the third quarter and 77 in the fourth quarter.

The Colts (13-4) set franchise playoff records for points, touchdowns (7), passing yards and total yards.

They will play at New England next Sunday in the divisional playoffs.

Last January, Manning threw for 377 yards and five touchdowns in the Colts' 41-10 win here over the Broncos. Marvin Harrison was the top receiver, catching seven passes for 133 yards and two scores.

Shanahan, the Broncos' two-time Super Bowl-winning coach who has not won a playoff game since John Elway retired after the 1998 season, will again spend the offseason trying to figure out how to contain the Colts. *AFP*

Moya donates Chennai purse to tsunami fund

MOYA celebrates after winning the ATP Chennai Open in Madras, India, Sunday. AP

MADRAS, India — Carlos Moya won his second straight Chennai Open title by rallying from a 5-2 deficit in the third set to beat Paradorn Srichaphan, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5), on Sunday in a rematch of last year's final.

Moya donated his winner's check of US$52,000 (euro39,390) to relief efforts for the Dec. 26 tsunami-earthquake catastrophe that killed more than 150,000 in Asia.

The fifth-ranked Moya is the first player to win the hard-court tuneup for the Australian Open in consecutive years. Paradorn reached his fourth straight final at the tournament, but his lone championship came in 2003.

"I was extremely lucky to win today," Moya said. "It's a great way to start the year."

Moya, the 1998 French Open champion, twice broke Paradorn when the Thai player served for the match in the last set.

Paradorn, who's ranked 27th but was seeded second behind Moya, is now 0-3 against the Spaniard.

"I had a chance, but just couldn't make it," Paradorn said. "But making the final again was great."

Paradorn won three straight games to lead by a set and break, but Moya rallied with three breaks of Paradorn's service game to level the sets.

Moya came back again in the third set from 5-2 down. The Thai star double-faulted to allow Moya to level 5-5, and saved a match point in the 12th game. *AP*

Beltran, Mets near sealing $119-M contract

NEW YORK—Puerto Rican outfielder Carlos Beltran is on the verge of following Pedro Martinez to the New York Mets.

A day after the All-Star outfielder let the deadline to re-sign with Houston pass, he reached a preliminary agreement Sunday night on a $119 million (euro90.15 million), seven-year contract with the Mets that includes an $11 million (euro8.33 million) signing bonus.

"We have good-faith terms, and we're working toward the final agreement," Beltran's agent, Scott Boras, said. "We're near the end of it, but not quite complete."

The Mets, who haven't made the playoffs since 2000, just last month lured Martinez from the Boston Red Sox with a $53 million (euro40.15 million), four-year deal. They declined comment on their talks with Beltran.

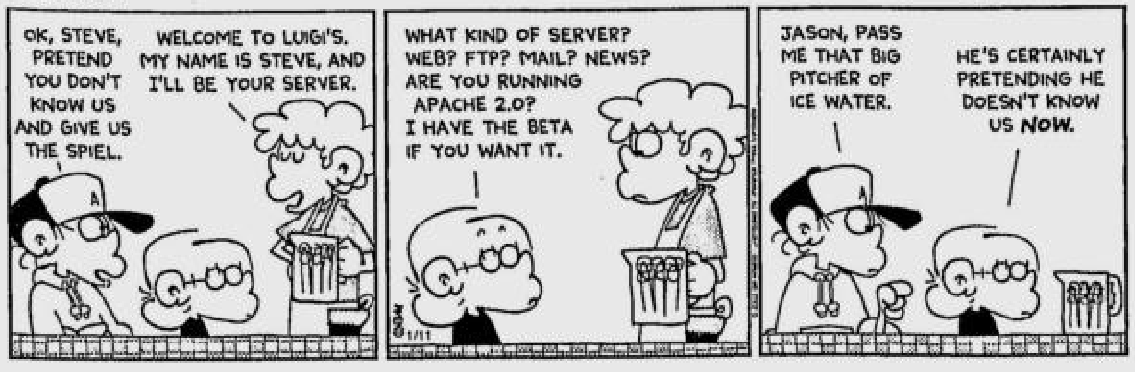
New York and Boras spent Sunday negotiating the salaries for each season, the amount of deferred payments and the schedule of when the money will be paid.

Beltran was due to come to New York for a physical Monday. The sides intended to announce the deal Tuesday—the last day before a change in federal rules makes signing bonuses subject to increased taxes.

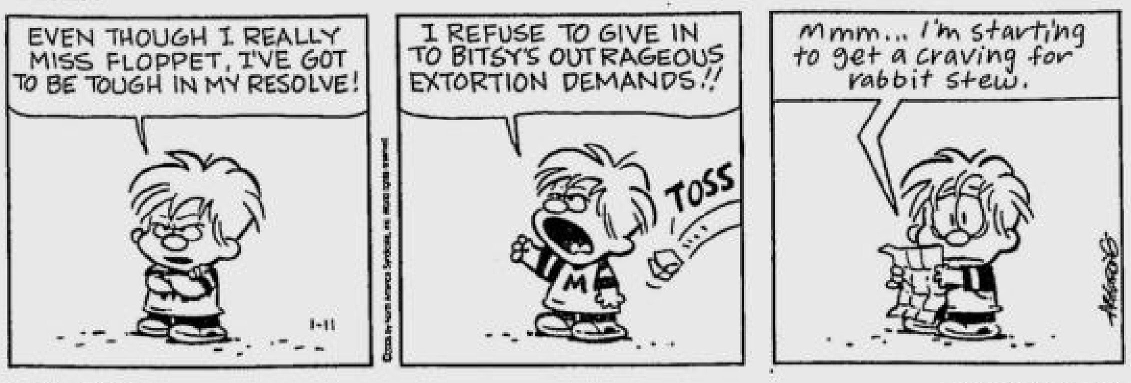
Across town, the Yankees planned to hold a news conference Tuesday to announce their acquisition of pitching ace Randy Johnson. *AP*

BELTRAN: Good-faith terms

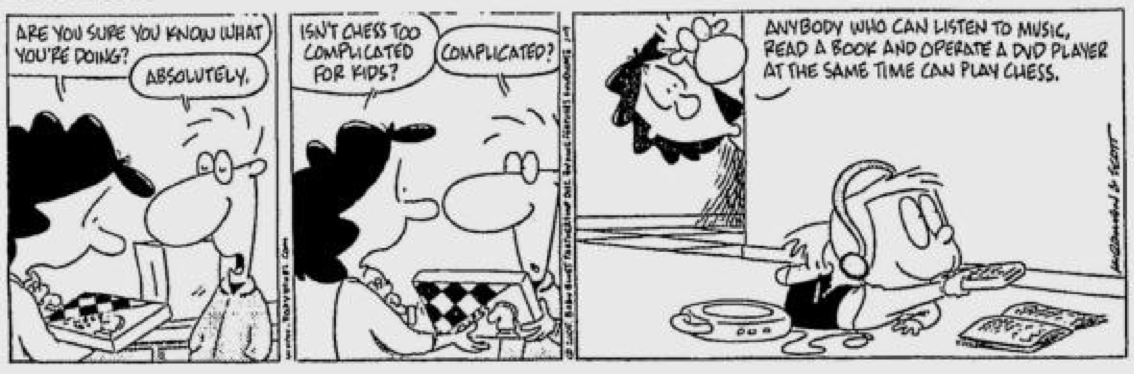
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


OK, STEVE, PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW US AND GIVE US THE SPIEL.
WELCOME TO LUIGI'S. MY NAME IS STEVE, AND I'LL BE YOUR SERVER.
WHAT KIND OF SERVER? WEB? FTP? MAIL? NEWS? ARE YOU RUNNING APACHE 2.0? I HAVE THE BETA IF YOU WANT IT.
JASON, PASS ME THAT BIG PITCHER OF ICE WATER.
HE'S CERTAINLY PRETENDING HE DOESN'T KNOW US NOW.
1/11

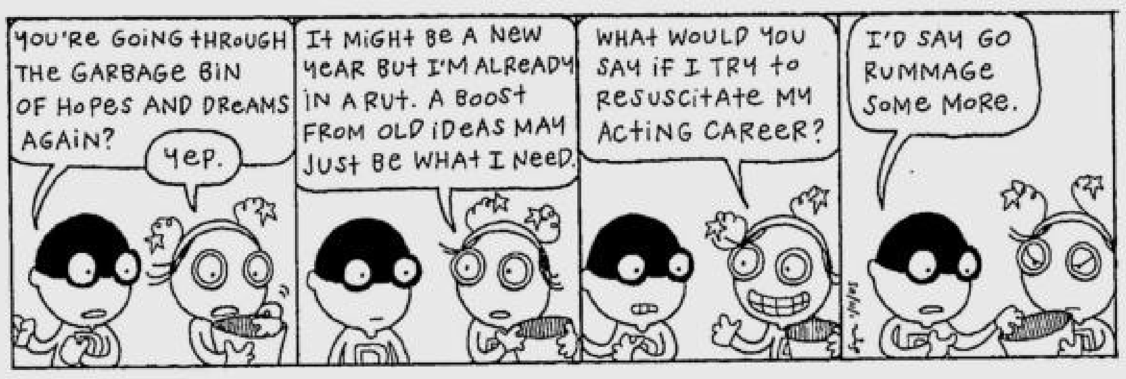
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


EVEN THOUGH I REALLY MISS FLOPPET, I'VE GOT TO BE TOUGH IN MY RESOLVE!
1-11
I REFUSE TO GIVE IN TO BITSY'S OUTRAGEOUS EXTORTION DEMANDS!!
TOSS
Mmm... I'm starting to get a craving for rabbit stew.

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
ABSOLUTELY.
ISN'T CHESS TOO COMPLICATED FOR KIDS?
COMPLICATED?
ANYBODY WHO CAN LISTEN TO MUSIC, READ A BOOK AND OPERATE A DVD PLAYER AT THE SAME TIME CAN PLAY CHESS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU'RE GOING THROUGH THE GARBAGE BIN OF HOPES AND DREAMS AGAIN?
YEP.
IT MIGHT BE A NEW YEAR BUT I'M ALREADY IN A RUT. A BOOST FROM OLD IDEAS MAY JUST BE WHAT I NEED.
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I TRY TO RESUSCITATE MY ACTING CAREER?
I'D SAY GO RUMMAGE SOME MORE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are strong-willed, competent and capable. You get things done. You are also a shrewd judge of character. You have high standards for yourself and others. People often pay you for your opinions because you are knowledgeable. All kinds of exciting, fresh, new beginnings await you this year.
Birthdate of: Amanda Peet, actress; Mary J. Blige, singer; Naomi Judd, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's a lovely, social day! Accept all invitations. Enjoy an easygoing camaraderie with friends, especially female friends. Share your dreams for the future with someone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You should be aware that you'll probably do something today that draws attention to you. It's not a big deal. But if all eyes are on you, make sure you're ready for this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're starting this week off with a strong sense of adventure. You want something exciting to happen, preferably when you're traveling somewhere you've never been before.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Two heads are better than one. Get together with someone to sort out debt and insurance matters, plus everything having to do with shared property and jointly held possessions.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Moon is opposite your sign today. This means you have to give a little more to others. Be prepared to go more than halfway. (In two weeks, it will be your turn.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Start this week off by attending to little details, which can help you get better organized. Do some cleaning and tidying up. A cluttered space creates a cluttered mind. (And a serene, calm space promotes a serene, calm mind.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Focus on matters with children today. Don't be afraid to tap into your creative potential. Let your playful nature come out. Be a kid again!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with parents and family members might be significant today. Don't ignore the needs of family members right now. This is also a good day to explore real estate deals.

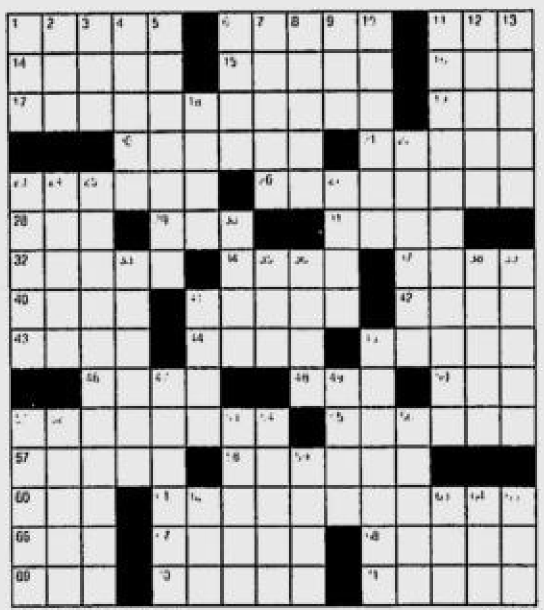
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be extra-clear in all your communications with others. Discussions with siblings are significant. This is also a good day for contracts and negotiations. You rock!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Focus on financial matters today. Make friends with your bank account. Figure out how much money you have, and how much you don't have. (Information is power.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you a bit more emotional about everything; on the other hand, it attracts good luck and opportunities to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You need to protect your peace of mind today. Go gently into the world. If you can work from home today, do it.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY
1/11/05

ACROSS
1 Something to believe in
6 Earth tone
11 Protrude
14 Order pizza delivered
15 Savoir-faire
16 LAX stat
17 Add 51D before leader?
19 Gala garb
20 Brought about
21 Space Invaders company
23 Some training horses
26 Keeps in existence
28 "Xanadu" grp.
29 DDE's command
31 Ancient lang.
32 Top grade
34 French half
37 October's stone
40 Rib cut
41 Add 51D to enter a password?
42 __ podrida
43 Male deer
44 Argue for
45 Sacred hymn
46 Heroic tale
48 PanAm rival
50 Tuck's partner
51 Native American huts
55 Mary-Kate and Ashley
57 Recurring pains
58 Lobe warmer
60 Standoff
61 Add 51D before Z?
66 Shade tree
67 Clarinets' kin
68 Divided into distinct areas
69 Bread for a Reuben
70 Have a feeling
71 Old enough

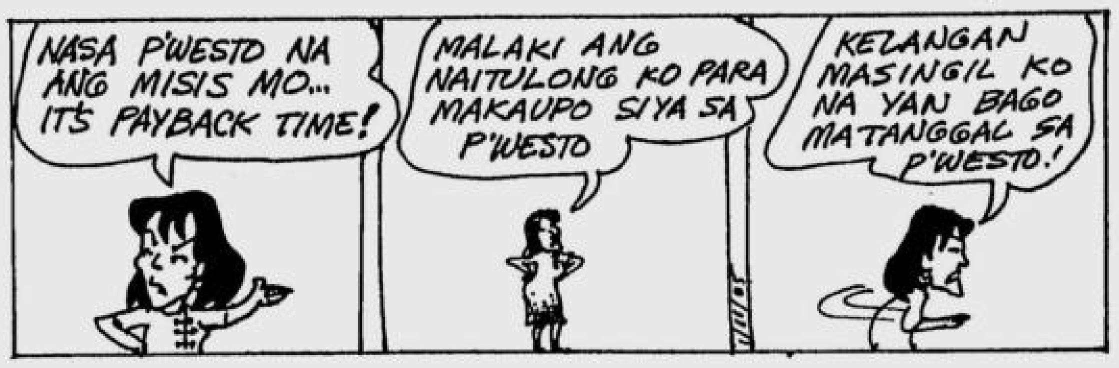
DOWN
1 OED entry
2 Bladed pole
3 Classic Pontiac
4 Holiday pie
5 Scorpio's brightest star
6 Artistic piece
7 Ice-cream holders
8 Brahmanist
9 Suffix for a language
10 Give a new score to
11 Add 51D before 747?
12 Kind of about-face
13 Cabs
18 Oxidize
22 Forbidden fruits
23 Humdinger
24 Beta preceder
25 Add 51D before decor?
27 Calf front
30 Fragrance
33 Mental grasp
35 Hard-boiled one
36 Big name in champagne
38 Bushed
39 Lanterns
41 Hilo cookout
45 Residence of the Doge, e.g.
47 Doohickeys
49 Womanizer
51 Theme of this puzzle
52 In a very cool manner
53 Evita, for one
54 Land __ alive!
56 Parody
59 Table wine
62 Honest guy
63 Genetic carrier
64 Scott Joplin piece
65 Grand __ Opry

Monday's Puzzle Solved

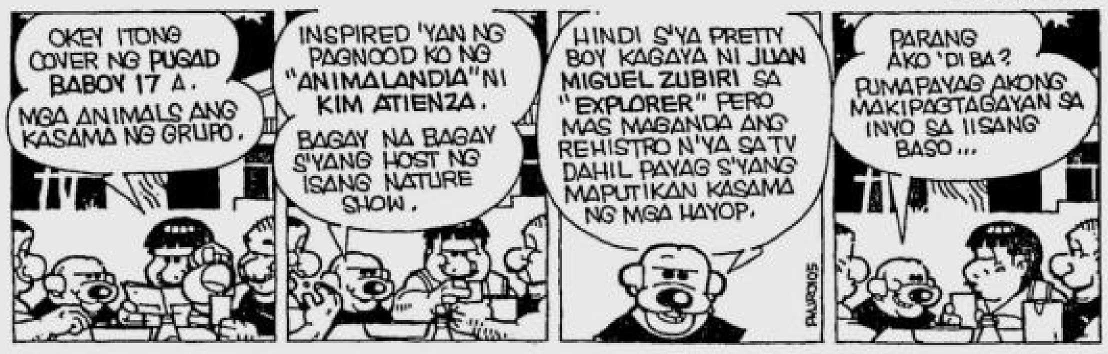
S	P	U	D	S	■	D	E	R	N	■	T	S	A	R
I	O	N	I	A	■	A	G	U	A	■	I	T	T	Y
B	L	A	N	D	B	L	O	N	D	■	M	A	T	A
S	O	U	N	D	L	Y	■	W	I	S	E	M	A	N
■	■	■	E	L	Y	■	C	A	R	H	O	P	■	■
A	L	F	R	E	■	P	A	Y	■	O	U	S	T	S
M	E	A	S	■	P	E	P	■	D	O	T	T	I	E
A	P	R	■	B	E	A	T	N	I	K	■	O	L	E
S	E	C	R	E	T	■	U	A	P	■	C	M	D	R
S	W	E	E	T	■	C	R	Y	■	H	O	P	F	S
■	■	F	A	T	A	L	E	■	F	A	N	■	■	■
A	C	O	L	Y	T	E	■	H	A	I	D	I	N	G
H	A	R	T	■	L	A	S	E	R	L	O	S	E	R
A	R	C	O	■	A	V	O	N	■	E	N	L	A	I
B	E	E	R	■	S	E	N	T	■	D	E	A	L	T

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved
1/11/05

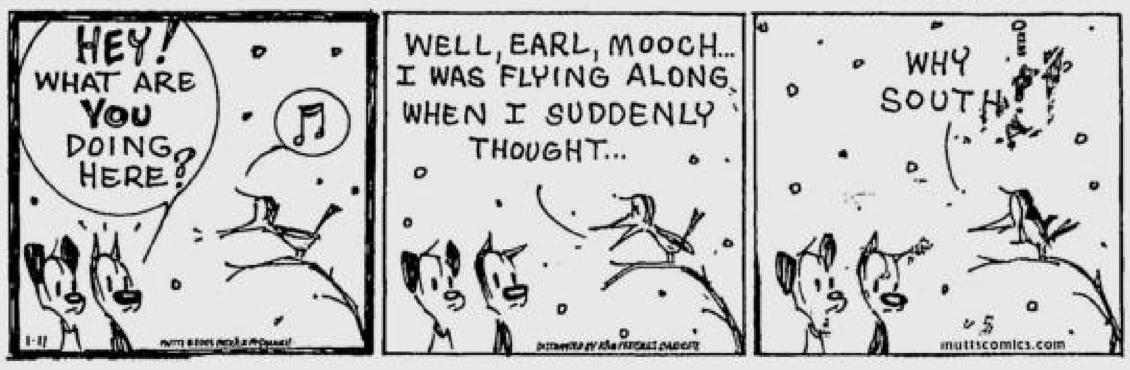
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


NASA P'WESTO NA ANG MISIS MO... IT'S PAYBACK TIME!
MALAKI ANG NAITULONG KO PARA MAKAUPO SIYA SA P'WESTO
KELANGAN MASINGIL KO NA YAN BAGO MATANGGAL SA P'WESTO!

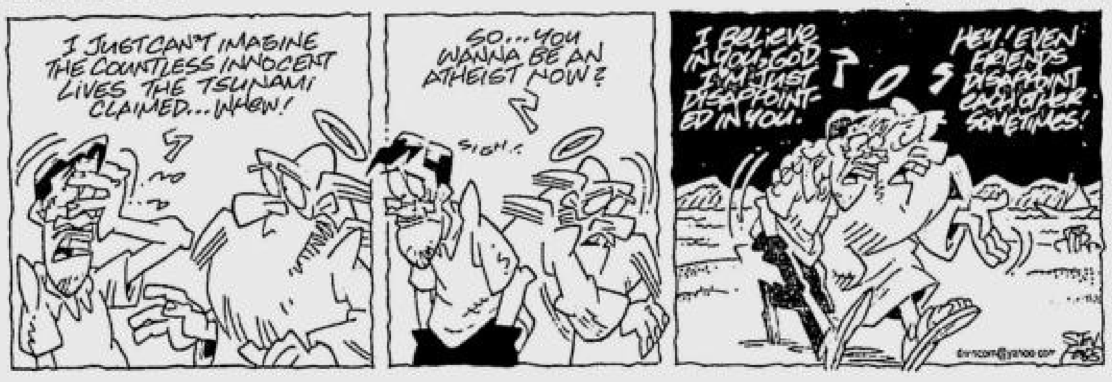
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


OKEY ITONG COVER NG PUGAD BABOY 17 A. MGA ANIMALS ANG KASAMA NG GRUPO.
INSPIRED 'YAN NG PAGNOOD KO NG "ANIMALANDIA" NI KIM ATIENZA. BAGAY NA BAGAY S'YANG HOST NG ISANG NATURE SHOW.
HINDI S'YA PRETTY BOY KAGAYA NI JUAN MIGUEL ZUBIRI SA "EXPLORER" PERO MAS MAGANDA ANG REHISTRO N'YA SA TV DAHIL PAYAG S'YANG MAPUTIKAN KASAMA NG MGA HAYOP.
PARANG AKO 'DI BA? PUMAPAYAG AKONG MAKIPAGTAGAYAN SA INYO SA IISANG BASO...

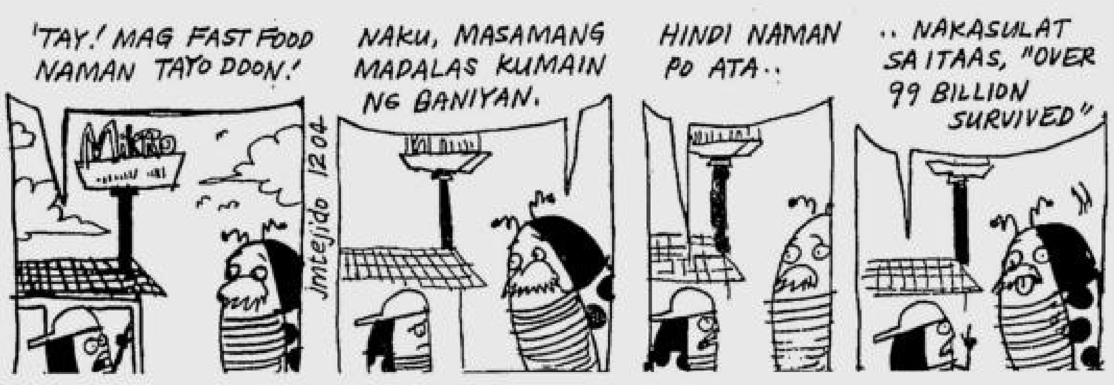
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WELL, EARL, MOOCH... I WAS FLYING ALONG WHEN I SUDDENLY THOUGHT...
WHY SOUTH?!
1-11
muttscomics.com

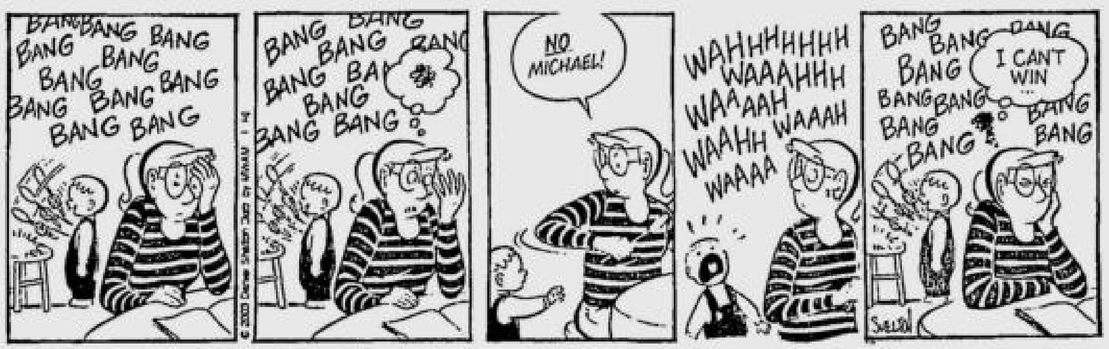
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE THE COUNTLESS INNOCENT LIVES THE TSUNAMI CLAIMED... WHEW!
SO... YOU WANNA BE AN ATHEIST NOW?
SIGH
I BELIEVE IN YOU, GOD. I'M JUST DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
HEY! EVEN FRIENDS DISAPPOINT EACH OTHER SOMETIMES!

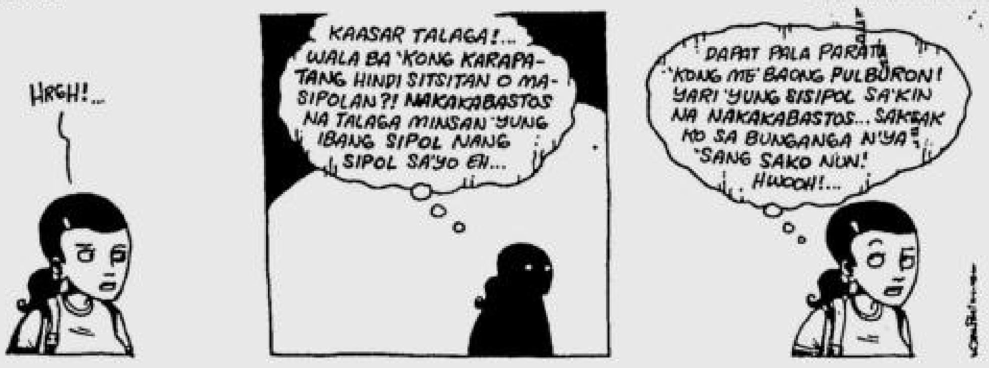
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


'TAY! MAG FAST FOOD NAMAN TAYO DOON!
jmtejido 1204
NAKU, MASAMANG MADALAS KUMAIN NG BANIYAN.
HINDI NAMAN PO ATA..
.. NAKASULAT SA ITAAS, "OVER 99 BILLION SURVIVED"

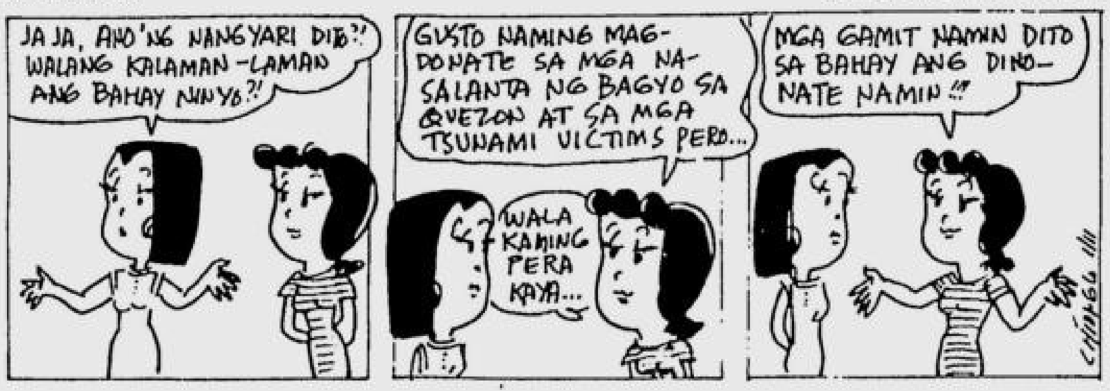
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
NO MICHAEL!
WAHHHHHHH WAAAHHH WAAAH WAAHH WAAAH WAAAA
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
I CAN'T WIN
SHELTON

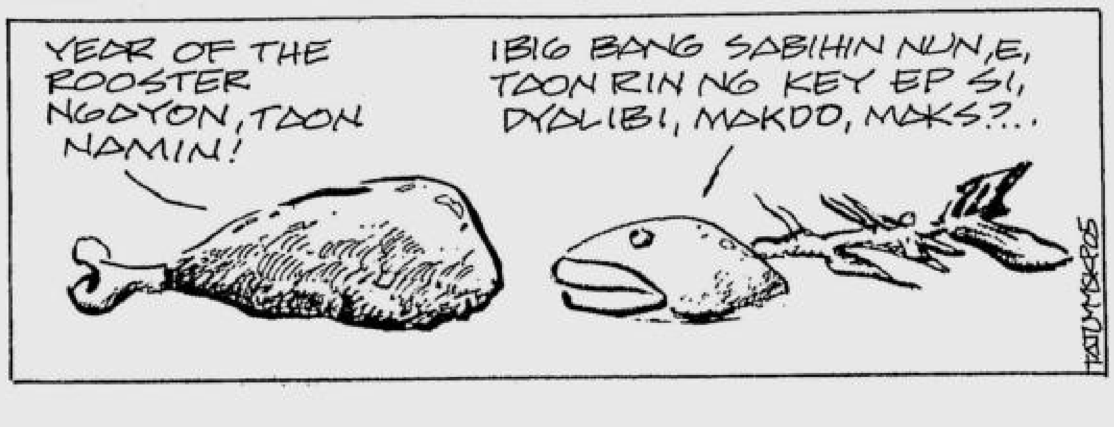
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


HRGH!...
KAASAR TALAGA!... WALA BA 'KONG KARAPATANG HINDI SITSITAN O MASIPOLAN?! NAKAKABASTOS NA TALAGA MINSAN 'YUNG IBANG SIPOL NANG SIPOL SA'YO EH...
DAPAT PALA PARATI 'KONG ME' BAONG PULBURON! YARI 'YUNG SISIPOL SA'KIN NA NAKAKABASTOS... SAKSAK KO SA BUNGANGA N'YA 'SANG SAKO NUN! HWOOH!...

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JA JA, ANO'NG NANGYARI DITO?! WALANG KALAMAN-LAMAN ANG BAHAY NINYO?!
GUSTO NAMING MAG-DONATE SA MGA NASALANTA NG BAGYO SA QUEZON AT SA MGA TSUNAMI VICTIMS PERO...
WALA KAMING PERA KAYA...
MGA GAMIT NAMIN DITO SA BAHAY ANG DINONATE NAMIN!!
CHIONGLO 1/11

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YEAR OF THE ROOSTER NGAYON, TAON NAMIN!
IBIG BANG SABIHIN NUN, E, TAON RIN NG KEY EP SI, DYOLIBI, MAKDO, MAKS?...

See'eMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 OCEAN'S 12	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	5 SIGAW	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 BLADE: TRINITY 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	1 OCEAN'S 12
2 BLADE: TRINITY	2 OCEAN'S 12	2 OCEAN'S 12	6 BLADE: TRINITY	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 OCEAN'S 12 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	2 BLADE: TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE		GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 OCEAN'S 12 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	7 HAPPY TOGETHER	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MANO PO 3 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:30	3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 OCEAN'S 12	3 BLADE: TRINITY	4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 OCEAN'S 12 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	4 HAPPY TOGETHER
5 HAPPY TOGETHER	4 ENTENG KABISOTE			GUARANTEED SEATS 5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	5

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1	BLADE: TRINITY 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
2	OCEAN'S 12 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	METRO EVENT WITH BEA ALONZO January 15, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005

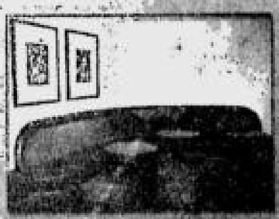
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents OH ROMEO
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - January 14 to 30, 2005

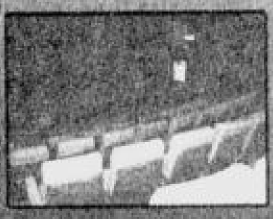
Ayala MUSEUM
Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

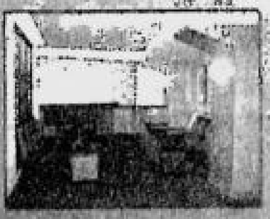
Imagine this.
Bringing your friends to an intimate gathering in a THX standard cinema with a sophisticated lounge area executed by the same interior design team of the posh Greenbelt 3 Residences.
You may call it

mycinema

Perfect for intimate parties, exclusive launches, corporate events and other types of private functions. Ayala Cinemas brings you the country's one and only private cinema. Now it can be yours.
For Inquiries, please call 752 7862 or 757 3860 to 62







WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE
TRINITY

NOW SHOWING
in
AYALA CINEMAS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER • GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 1 & 3 • AYALA CENTER CEBU

For screening schedules, call 729-7777.

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
Or log on to www.sureseats.com

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

PIONEER FILMS NEW LINE CINEMAS

Give them the gift of total entertainment.

for only P200

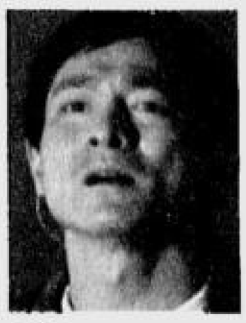
Ayala Cinemas Ticket
Timezone Passes
Taters/Chimara Cine-Snack

Available in all Taters/Chimara and Ayala Cinemas Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Cebu.

TIMEZONE CHIMARA

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!


LAU

YUNG

CHEN

Jade Solid Gold: HK's top singers

HONG KONG—Canto-pop singers Andy Lau and Joey Yung swept a Hong Kong music awards show, snatching eight gongs between them, reports said Sunday.

Heartthrob Lau, also a big-ticket actor, won five awards, including Hong Kong's Most Popular Male Singer and Most Popular Canto-Pop Star in Asia, at the Jade Solid Gold awards.

Other awards included trophies for his hit songs, including "After All I Have Love." Yung won the award for Best Hong Kong Singer and Kelly Chen, also an actress who starred in the hugely popular Infernal Affairs III movie, was voted Hong Kong's Most Popular Female Singer in Asia.

The star-studded event at the Coliseum theater Saturday saw performances from star girl-duo Twins and Hacken Lee, who also picked up minor awards. *AFP*

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 (DTS) SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) KUN FU HUSTLE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 BLADE TRINITY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE
4 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 (DTS) SIGAW

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS ES) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 HAPPY TOGETHER
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
4 (DTS) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 KUN FU HUSTLE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 MANO PO 3
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 MANO PO 3
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SIGAW
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 SIGAW
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 KUNG FU HUSTLE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 MANO PO 3
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 AISHITE IMASU
6 ONE MISSED CALL

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ONE MISSED CALL
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

US top 10 this week

LOS ANGELES—"Meet the Fockers" ruled the North American box office for a third consecutive weekend, speeding past the $200 million mark. The top 10, according to box-office tracking firm Exhibitor Relations:

1) "Meet the Fockers"
2) "White Noise"
3) "The Aviator"
4) "Lemony Snicket"
5) "Fat Albert"
6) "Ocean's Twelve"
7) "National Treasure"
8) "Spanglish"
9) "Phantom of the Opera"
10) "The Life Aquatic"

Reuters

Newman's sports car catches fire

MIAMI—Actor Paul Newman, a keen sports car racer, escaped unhurt on Saturday when a car he was testing at Daytona Beach in Florida caught fire, event organizers said.

The Grand American Road Racing Association said flames appeared from the engine compartment when Newman tried to restart the vehicle after taking a spin.

"The fire did not make its way into the cockpit," Grand American said on its website. Newman was taken to the track's medical center and later released, it added.

"I don't know what happened," the organizers quoted Newman as saying.

The Academy Award-winning actor, 79, was practicing for next month's Rolex 24 At Daytona Beach event. He was driving his No. 79 Silverstone Racing/Newman Racing Ford Crawford. *Reuters*

Mel Gibson . . .

From page A24

Favorite Daytime Talk Show Host was Ellen DeGeneres, who beat out Oprah Winfrey. DeGeneres was also chosen as Favorite Female Funny Star.

Will Smith, star of "I, Robot," was voted Favorite Male Action Movie Star. He received the award from his "Hitch" co-star, Eva Mendez. After kissing Mendez four times, Smith straightened his jacket and tie and said, "I gotta look right, my mom is watching."

Reuters, Agence France-Presse, AP

MAJOR WINNERS:

*Motion Picture: "Fahrenheit 9/11"

*Drama Motion Picture: "The Passion of the Christ"

*Comedy Motion Picture: "Shrek 2"

*Animated Motion Picture: "Shrek 2"

*Favorite Sequel: "Shrek 2"

*Animated Movie Star: Donkey in "Shrek 2" (voiced by Eddie Murphy)

*On-Screen Chemistry: Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler in "50 First Dates"

*Female Movie Star: Julia Roberts

*Male Movie Star: Johnny Depp

*Female Action Movie Star: Angelina Jolie

*Male Action Movie Star: Will Smith

*Leading Lady: Renee Zellweger

*Leading Man: Brad Pitt

*Funny Female Star: Ellen DeGeneres

*Funny Male Star: Jim Carrey

*Television Drama Series: "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"

*Television Comedy Series: "Will & Grace"

*New Television Comedy Series: 'Joey"

*New Television Drama Series: "Desperate Housewives"

*Female Television Star: Marg Helgenberger

*Male Television Star: Matt LeBlanc

*Late Night Talk Show Host: David Letterman

*Reality Show—Competition: "American Idol"

Reuters, Agence France-Presse, AP

From fear to . . .

From page A24

you unique."

Ultimate 'Matrix' collection

THE DEFINITIVE "Matrix" DVD set is out: The 10-disc collection features "The Matrix," "The Matrix Reloaded," "The Matrix Revolutions" and "The Animatrix."

The set has over 35 hours of extras highlighted by 100 new featurettes, commentaries, and "Enter the Matrix" videogame footage. Written and directed by the Wachowski brothers, the "Matrix" trilogy stars **Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne** and **Carrie-Anne Moss.**

"The Animatrix" is a fusion of CG-animation and Japanese anime, with nine short films that explore the world of "The Matrix." They include "Flight of the Osiris," "The Second Resistance," "Kid's Story," "World Record" and "A Detective Story."

Live on CNN

ON JAN. 20, reelected US President **George W. Bush** will again be sworn into office at solemn rites in Washington, D.C., which will be covered live by CNN. The ceremony starts at approximately 23:00 (11 p.m.), Manila time.

OPENS JANUARY 19
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IF ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ADULT.
Robert DeNiro Ben Stiller Dustin Hoffman Barbra Streisand Blythe Danner Teri Polo

WE'VE MET THE PARENTS, NOW LET'S...

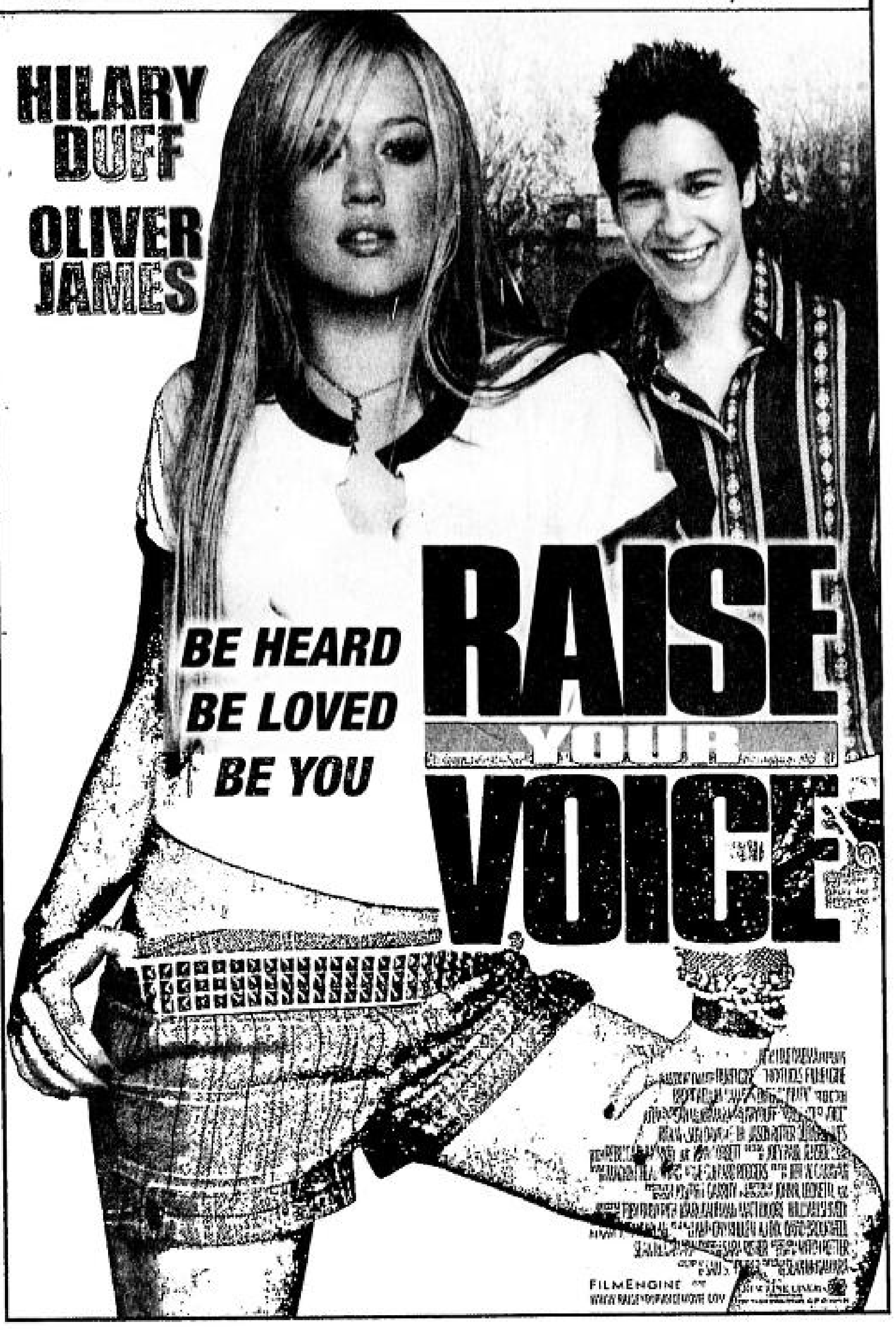
Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family.
Solar Entertainment Corporation

OPENS JANUARY 13, 2005 MTRCB R-13
Not since "Notting Hill" has there been a Romantic Comedy this sweet, sexy and funny!
KATRIN WEISSER TIM WILLIAMS SANDRA LEONHARD

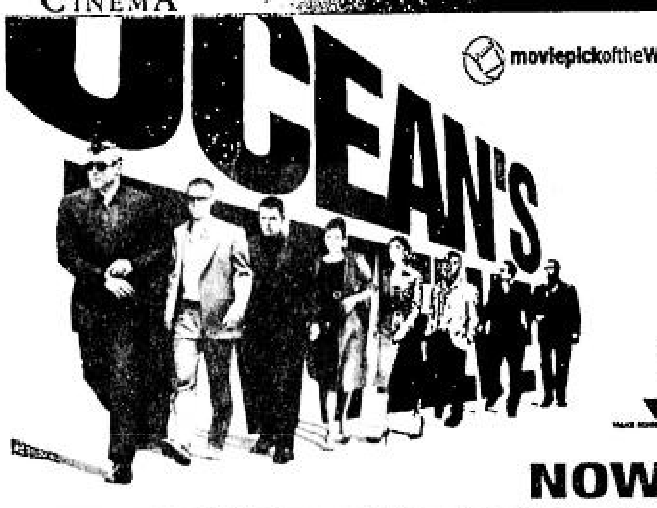
then call me.
Seeking impotent ma
Fairly attractive woman i
nties is seeking
t with, for adv
hip.
s: Intelligen

in search of an impotent man
BASED ON THE BESTSELLER BY GABY HAUPTMANN
LAUTERBACH BACH BONING

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED OPENS JAN. 13
OVERCOMING YOUR OBSTACLES, ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS AND FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE BEST LOOKING HUNK IN SCHOOL ARE THE BEST THINGS THAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU THIS NEW YEAR, 2005 !



SM CINEMA movietime



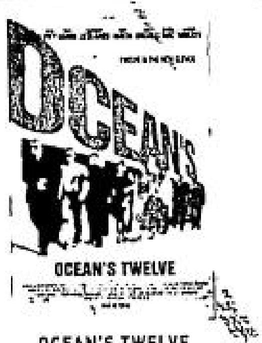
moviepickoftheWeek
GEORGE CLOONEY
BRAD PITT
MATT DAMON
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE
BERNIE MAC
"JULIA ROBERTS
TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
OCEAN'S TWELVE
NOW SHOWING

NOW SHOWING

BLADE TRINITY
MTRCB RATING. R13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Bacoor
Cebu • Iloilo • Davao
Cagayan de Oro

STEPHEN CHOW
功夫

KUNG FU HUSTLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Marilao
Bacoor • Dasmariñas



OCEAN'S TWELVE
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Baguio
Bacoor • Batangas • Dasmariñas
Cebu • Iloilo • Davao
Cagayan de Oro

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 MANO PO 3
6 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city marilao
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city baguio
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

sm city bacoor
1 SIGAW
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 ENTENG KABISOTE
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 MANO PO 3

sm city batangas
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city dasmariñas
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city lucena
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 MANO PO 3
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

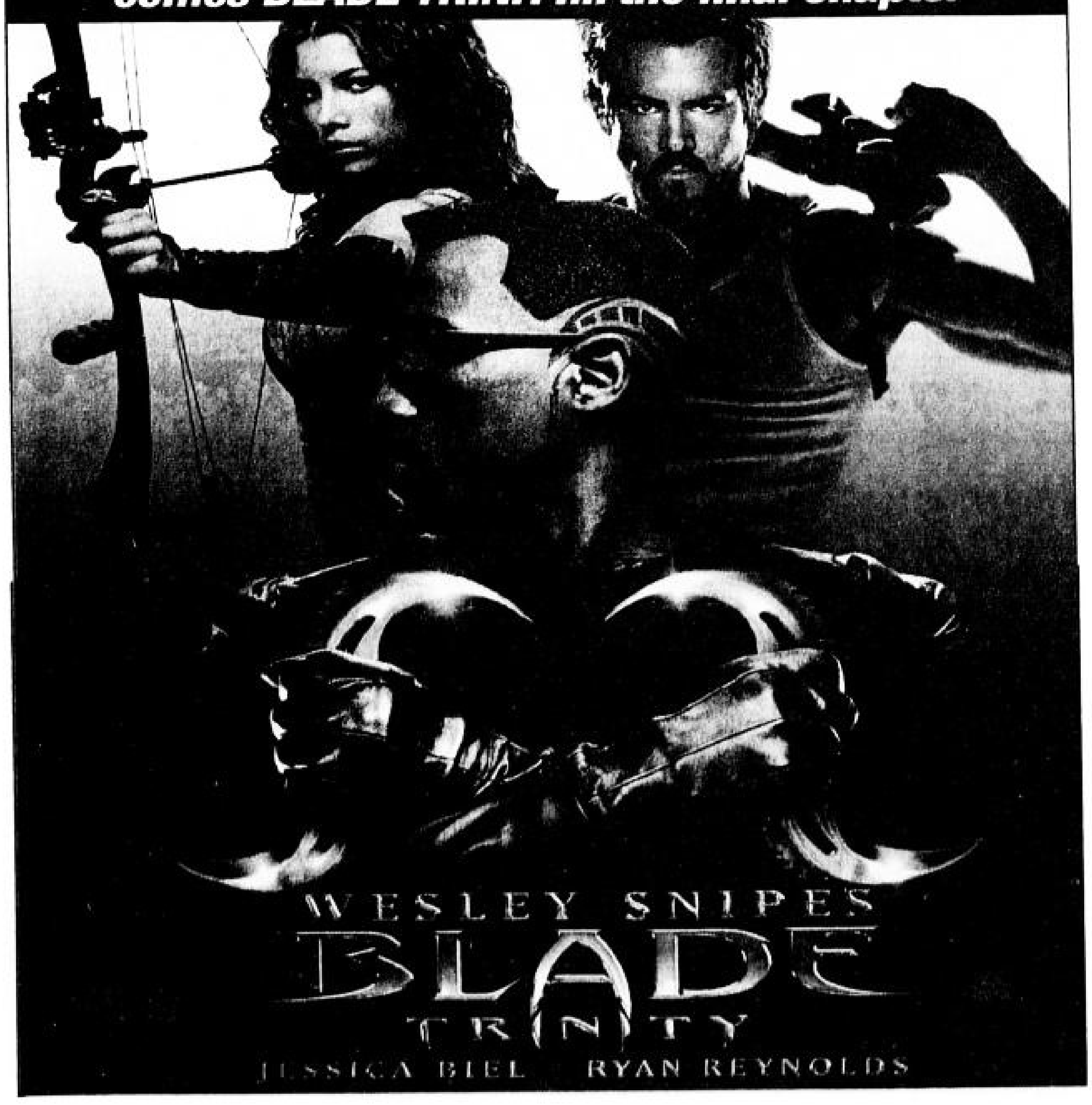
sm city cebu
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 ONE MISSED CALL
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 BLADE TRINITY

sm city iloilo
1 ONE MISSED CALL
2 RESERVED
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 RESERVED
8 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city davao
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ONE MISSED CALL
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 FORGOTTEN

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SUPERHERO IS BACK !
From MARVEL, the creator of SPIDERMAN comes BLADE TRINITY... the final chapter



ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

ANGEL Aquino

PIA Guanio

Changes in show biz that stars want to see

DollyWood

Dolly Ann Carvajal

WE'RE ALMOST halfway through the first month of 2005. Have you kept your promises (to yourself) to start the new year right?

No matter how corny we find new year's resolutions, we have to grapple with them every time January 1st comes around—just so we have some back-up plan. Even free spirits like me need to find their bearings once in a while. We may or may not make it happen but the desire to change and the sincere attempts to do so are more than enough. We can try again next year. The important thing is that we gotta wipe the slate clean.

Even celebrities who seem to lead such glamorous lives look forward to making some changes. Change is good. Who goes first?

ANGEL AQUINO: "I wish I could be more feisty, someone who bites! So people won't think I'm so nice, they bully me already. And this year I want to be out there ready to embrace every opportunity that comes my way and out there to help others."

OGIE ALCASID: "I would change my attitude of getting too impatient with myself. In show biz, I would want to change the way people are too judgmental of others."

PIA GUANIO: "I want to be less impulsive, more contemplatative and deliberate about what I do. There is a lot that I'm accountable for. GMA 7 has given me a lot of opportunities."

RIO Locsin

ALBERT MARTINEZ: "In show biz I hope we can scrap the island mentality. We should look at the bigger market, which is Asia. As for myself, I will spend more time with my family and friends and enjoy life's simple pleasures."

NYOY VOLANTE: "I'd like to care more about the things I wouldn't normally care about ... to save every last cent ... mind every pound ... take every minute more seriously, read every last detail! I'd like to make a lot of [previously regarded as] unimportant things important!

RIO LOCSIN: "With myself there's really nothing I wanna change, but in show biz I wish people had more sensitivity and compassion."

Pure comedy

"KUNG FU Hustle" is comedy at its purest form. Although the **Stephen Chow** starrer is meant to make fun of the excesses of the martial arts movie, the film is so full of unique gags and so intense in its action sequences that it exceeds the limits of parody. The film is almost cartoon-like in a Road Runner kind of way. You find yourself laughing at the chase scenes like you were a child watching your favorite Saturday afternoon cartoons.

Yuen Qiu (the Landlady) reminded me of **Bella Flores**. She's wickedly good! The actress was a former Bond girl ("The Man With the Golden Gun") who has made a comeback after two decades and gamely puts on 30 pounds for her role in the movie.

The movie's international success also points the way to Filipinos as to how we can reinvigorate local cinema—not by copying western blockbuster formulas but by going back to our roots and looking within our culture to come up with original work. Watch "Kung Fu Hustle." It will make you forget about all the new year's hustle and bustle and start the new year laughing.

For feedback, email wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com.

Mel Gibson: The people have spoken

PASADENA, California—Two hit movies that have been snubbed this awards season in Hollywood snared top honors at the 31st Annual People's Choice Awards on Sunday as anti-Bush documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" was named Best Film and "The Passion of The Christ" Best Film Drama.

MEL Gibson denies he was "tipped."

RENEE Z, Favorite leading lady

In television categories, current sensation "Desperate Housewives" was the Best New Drama and "Joey," starring former "Friends" star Matt LeBlanc, was Best New Comedy. Veteran shows "Will & Grace" and "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" earned the honors Best TV Comedy and TV Drama, respectively.

Over the next several weeks, many professional associations and critics groups in the United States will pick best films, TV shows, songs and musicians during the annual awards season.

Fan appeal

The People's Choice Awards gauge fan appeal. This year, favorites were chosen by 21 million online voters.

Nominees were earlier picked by some 6,000 people who are part of Entertainment Weekly magazine's "Front Row Panel"—the editors, a People's Choice production team, and a panel of pop culture fans—then winners were decided via online voting.

Neither "Fahrenheit" nor "Passion" have fared well in award voting from critics and media groups.

"The people have spoken," Gibson told reporters after the glittering ceremonies aired on CBS television.

Jason Alexander, known as George Costanza on "Seinfeld," and Malcolm-Jamal Warner, one of the sons on "The Cosby Show," emceed the program from the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

'Fahrenheit 9/11' and 'Passion of the Christ' top winners in 31st Annual People's Choice Awards

MICHAEL Moore: Amazing

"Fahrenheit" director Michael Moore dedicated his trophy to the soldiers in Iraq and their parents. His film is highly critical of President George W. Bush and the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Amazed

"I am so amazed that you did this, the people of America, that you voted for this film," he said.

The movie became the best-selling documentary of all time.

One published report had speculated that the pair had been tipped about their win, to attend the rites. Backstage, Gibson denied the speculation.

Depp, Roberts

Johnny Depp was Favorite Male Movie Star, Julia Roberts Top Female Movie Star, but Renee Zellweger was Favorite Leading Lady.

In TV groups, "Joey" walked off with a second award for Matt LeBlanc as Favorite Male TV star. The former "Friends" star reprises his role as a struggling actor in "Joey."

"CSI" star Marg Helgenberger was favorite Female TV Star.

MEL/ A23

For the critics, it's Eastwood movie

NEW YORK—Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby" was named Best Film of 2004 by the National Society of Film Critics Awards, a group of leading movie critics from US newspapers and magazines.

The group late Saturday also chose Hillary Swank as Best Actress. Swank stars in the movie as an up-and-coming boxer.

She shared the award with British actress Imelda Staunton, who won for her role in the abortion drama "Vera Drake," set in 1950s Britain.

Jamie Foxx won as Best Actor for his role in the Ray Charles biopic "Ray" and his role as a taxi driver in the drama "Collateral."

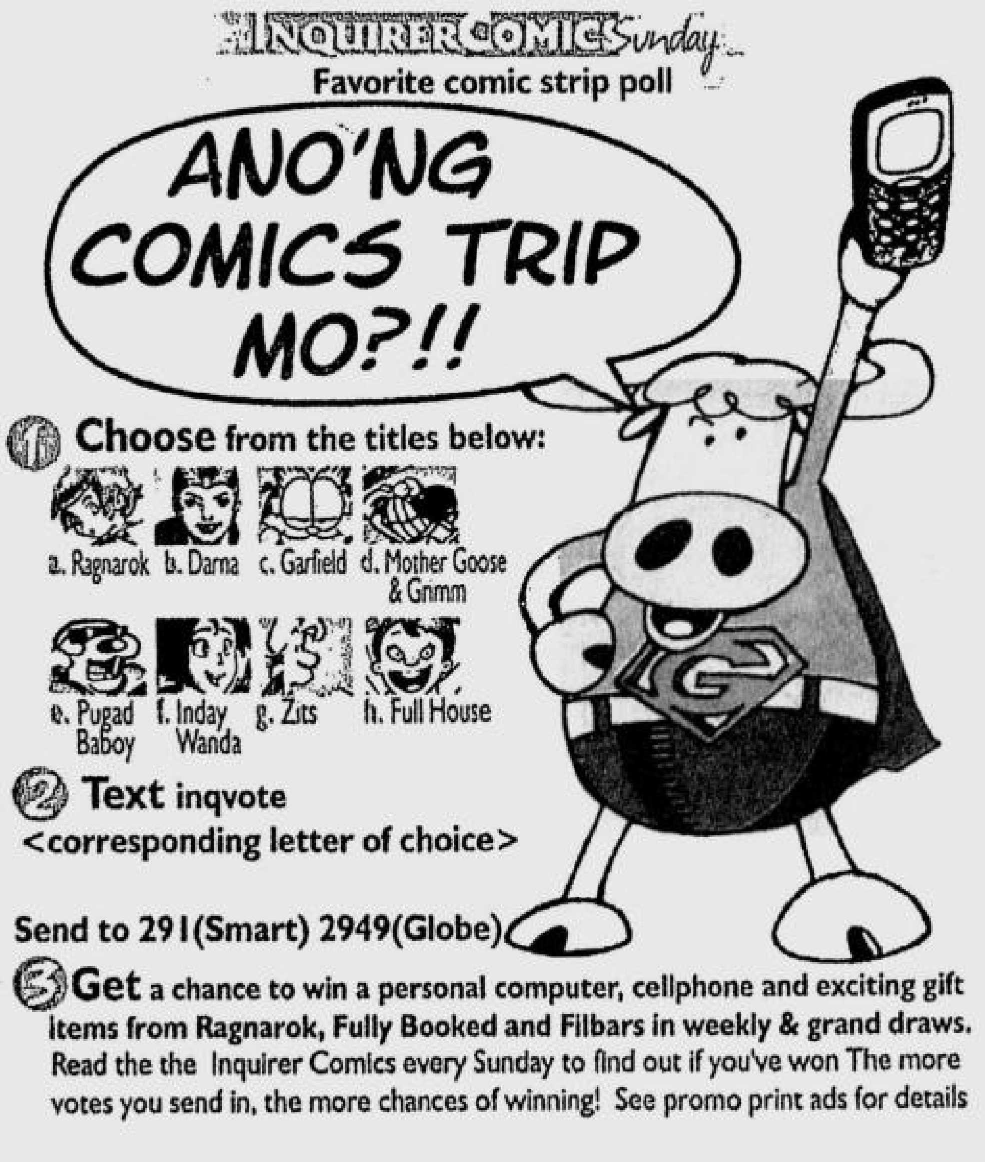
The critics chose Zhang Yimou of China as Best Director for two martial arts movies—"House of Flying Daggers" and "Hero."

And "Moolaade," a movie from Senegal about female genital mutilation directed by Ousmane Sembene, was named Best Foreign Film.

Thomas Haden Church and Virginia Madsen were chosen as Best Supporting Actor and Actress respectivly for their roles in "Sideways."

The 56 members of the group, originally founded in 1966, gather each year at a New York City hotel to make their choices.

AFP


INQUIRER COMICS Sunday
Favorite comic strip poll

ANO'NG COMICS TRIP MO?!!

① **Choose** from the titles below:

a. Ragnarok b. Darna c. Garfield d. Mother Goose & Grimm
e. Pugad Baboy f. Inday Wanda g. Zits h. Full House

② **Text** inqvote
<corresponding letter of choice>

Send to 291(Smart) 2949(Globe)

③ **Get** a chance to win a personal computer, cellphone and exciting gift items from Ragnarok, Fully Booked and Filbars in weekly & grand draws. Read the the Inquirer Comics every Sunday to find out if you've won The more votes you send in, the more chances of winning! See promo print ads for details

From fear to 'yuk!' factor

Viewfinder

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN "Fear Factor" started telecasting, it was a physical competition that derived much of its excitement from challenges involving strength, dexterity, determination and balance—in other words, mainly the contestants' skills, and not much else.

Thus, viewers admired the contestants' courage, control, and ability to triumph over their fears.

After some months, however, viewers got used to the physical challenges, and their attention level dipped. So, the show had to up the ante in terms of less physical tests, and brought into play what could be called the "yuk" factor.

From fear to "yuk" factor—that's quite a stretch, and a key shift that has radically changed the character of the show.

Aside from coping with the regulation physical challenges, contestants now have to eat all sorts of gross stuff, be covered with thousands of bees or scores of tarantula spiders, lie down on a bed of snakes or scorpions—etc.!

The tests have become so offputting that some viewers have been protesting. Instructively, very few contestants have cried uncle, and have instead simply hunkered down and bit the bullet—or icky insect, or nauseating animal body part!

Trouble is, their focus has in turn shifted, from mastering their fears by asserting their courage, to doing whatever it takes, no matter how cruddy, just to win the show's $50,000 prize.

That's perfectly understandable, of course, but not really very admirable. Well, to each his own way of making the most money in the shortest possible time . . .

As usual, the success of "Fear Factor" has prompted some local shows to imitate its tests, including its most offputting gustatorial challenges.

The big difference is, the local challenge shows' contestants are celebrities, so their being subjected to such nauseating tests acquires greater power to either impress or discombobulate.

It's impressive that stars agree to perform such unglamorous and even downright yukky feats. On the other hand, it's depressing that stardom can be so debased that celebrities are reduced to such a pathetic state.

Viewers will react as they see fit, but we're more concerned about the celebrities' thoughts as they bite into that earthworm, or chew on that slab of pig's brain.

Is the prize money really worth the degradation? Do they need the TV exposure *that* badly? After they've done everything required of them, no matter how nauseating or demeaning, how do they perceive themselves? Is all of this really *trabaho lang, walang personalan*? —Not!

'Hitch'

IN THE sophisticated romantic comedy, "Hitch," director **Andy Tennant** tells the story of a New York matchmaker or "date doctor" (**Will Smith**), who for a fee has helped many men woo the women of their dreams.

For his part, Smith's character appears to be impervious to romantic importunings. But, while coaching a meek accountant (**Kevin James**) who is smitten with a glamorous celebrity (**Amber Valletta**), he finally meets his match in the gorgeous gossip columnist (**Eva Mendes**) who follows Allegra's every move.

The film is peopled by ultra-cool character, but director Tennant shares that the movie is more than just trendy. "When all is said and done," he observes, it's about presenting the best part of who you are, about not being afraid to show your flaws and anything else that makes

FROM/ A23

BUMILI NG PETRON ULTRON O REV-X AT I-TEXT
PETRON
6B23888A/
AI Dy/
1 Dalia St.
Cubao, Q.C.
Promo Period runs from November 15, 2004 to May 15, 2005
See posters and flyers for details.

TUESDAY,
JANUARY 11, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

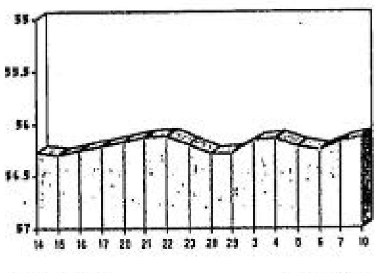
DELL™
PowerEdge 2850
Perfect balance of performance, storage capacity, configuration flexibility and rack density
Call now and buy at a special price!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

Kirin hikes stake in SMC to 19.67%

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



DECEMBER JANUARY

P 56.13 = $

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 10, 2005

Y 104.59 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 7, 2004

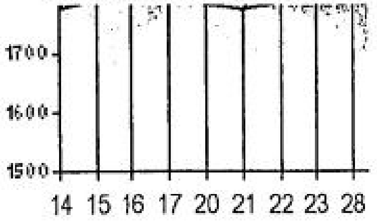
GOLD: $ 419.60-420.10

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 10, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.61% lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.61 percent lower yesterday as profit-taking continued but renewed interest in telecom stocks limited the fall, dealers said.

They said the market was in a consolidation mode following last week's rise to the highest level in nearly five years, and this downward bias was likely to persist in coming sessions before more gains.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed down 11.31 points to 1,840.47 after trading between 1,838.93 and 1,854.32.

Volume turnover totalled 1.32 billion shares worth P9.47 billion from 2.3 billion shares valued at P2.06 billion on Friday.

Block transactions involving San Miguel Corp "B" shares accounted for the high value turnover.

The broader all-shares index ended down 8.24 points at 1,156.62.

Losers beat gainers 54 to 22, with 41 stocks unchanged.

"Some big caps are still at their overbought levels. Investors are giving the market some more time to correct, but some have already taken advantage of the recent weakness to position anew," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities Inc.

He said the absence of fresh leads on the corporate front, coupled with forecasts of higher interest rates due to a sustained rise in domestic inflation, had weighed on sentiment. *AFP*

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JAPAN'S Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. has increased its stake in San Miguel Corp., Southeast Asia's biggest food and beverage firm, to 19.67 percent, reflecting the Japanese brewer's firm vote of confidence in the beer-based giant's long-term strategy.

With the purchase of additional shares, Kirin is close to adding another seat in San Miguel's 15-member board. The Japanese firm currently holds two board seats in San Miguel.

The deal was transacted in the stock exchange when 117 million class "B" shares were crossed by CLSA Phils. Inc. at P75 each, or a total of P8.8 billion. San Miguel "B" shares closed at P79 yesterday.

The block represented 4.12 percent of San Miguel's 2.85 billion outstanding shares.

Before the transaction, Kirin held 15.6 percent or two board seats.

In a statement yesterday, Kirin announced that it had acquired the shares from the SMC Retirement Plan.

"San Miguel has been the most important partner in Southeast Asia since our investment in 2002. The direction of San Miguel is in line with Kirin's Asia and Oceania strategy. Kirin supports San Miguel's strategy and I am confident that this transaction will be another successful step to strengthen our long-term partnership," Kirin Brewery Co. president Koichiro Aramaki said in the statement.

SMC is taking the same expansion path as it brings its operations to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Australia as part of it bid to be among the top conglomerates in the Asia-Pacific region by 2007.

The company has seen major opportunities in line with its regional leap after it announced its bid for control of Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd.

SMC is looking at possible synergies with Berri Ltd., which could be its flagship juice brand for Australia. It is also studying ice cream production in the region after it relaunched last year its Magnolia ice cream brand, one of the most recognizable and enduring brands in the Philippines, in response to public demand.

SMC, through subsidiary Magnolia Inc., has a processing plant in Cavite. Magnolia currently manufactures and markets butter, cheese and margarine. The company accounts for nine out of every 10 non-refrigerated margarine products in the Philippines and four out of every five refrigerated margarine products.

Plans are being drawn up to build an ice cream production plant at the Laguna industrial park.

In Australia, San Miguel recently partnered with Berri Ltd.; Australia's leading juice company where it now holds a 51-percent stake. It also owns 100 percent of Australian beer brewer J. Boag & Sons Ltd., which generates roughly US$10 million in net profits a year.

SMC recently announced its A$1.78 billion ($1.37 billion) bid to acquire National Foods, Australia's biggest publicly listed dairy company. Its offer, equivalent to A$6 a share of National Foods, topped the A$5.45 a share bid of New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd. It represented a 28.5-percent premium to the Australian firm's closing price before Fonterra launched its bid in late October.

Ecozone status for Boracay project pushed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has urged Malacañang to grant economic zone status to a Boracay eco-village project following a government report on increased visitor arrivals in the wake of the Asian tsunami that wrecked popular tourist spots in the region.

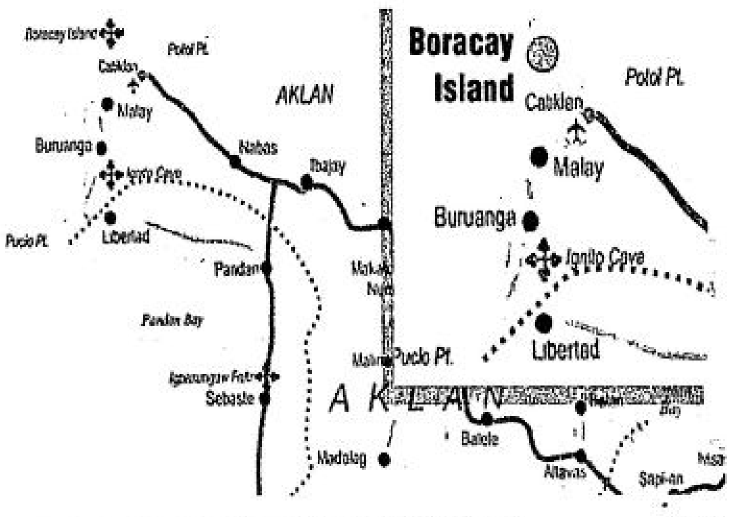
The project comprises a 79.2-hectare land in Yapak, Boracay Island, which the Ayala group owned until June 2003.

Mandaluyong City-based Boracay Property Holdings Inc., the current owner and developer, is owned by Equinox Land Corp., Taytay sa Kauswagan Inc., and 7017 Islands Property Holdings.

According to the DTI, the project's tenant, Boracay Beachfront Properties Inc., has so far invested $6 million or about P336 million to put up a world-class hotel and facilities in the area.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said Boracay has already established itself locally and internationally as a world-class tourist destination and that putting up tourism ecozones would attract foreign investors and other businesses to further develop the island.

ECOZONE/ B2



Interest in oil drilling picks up

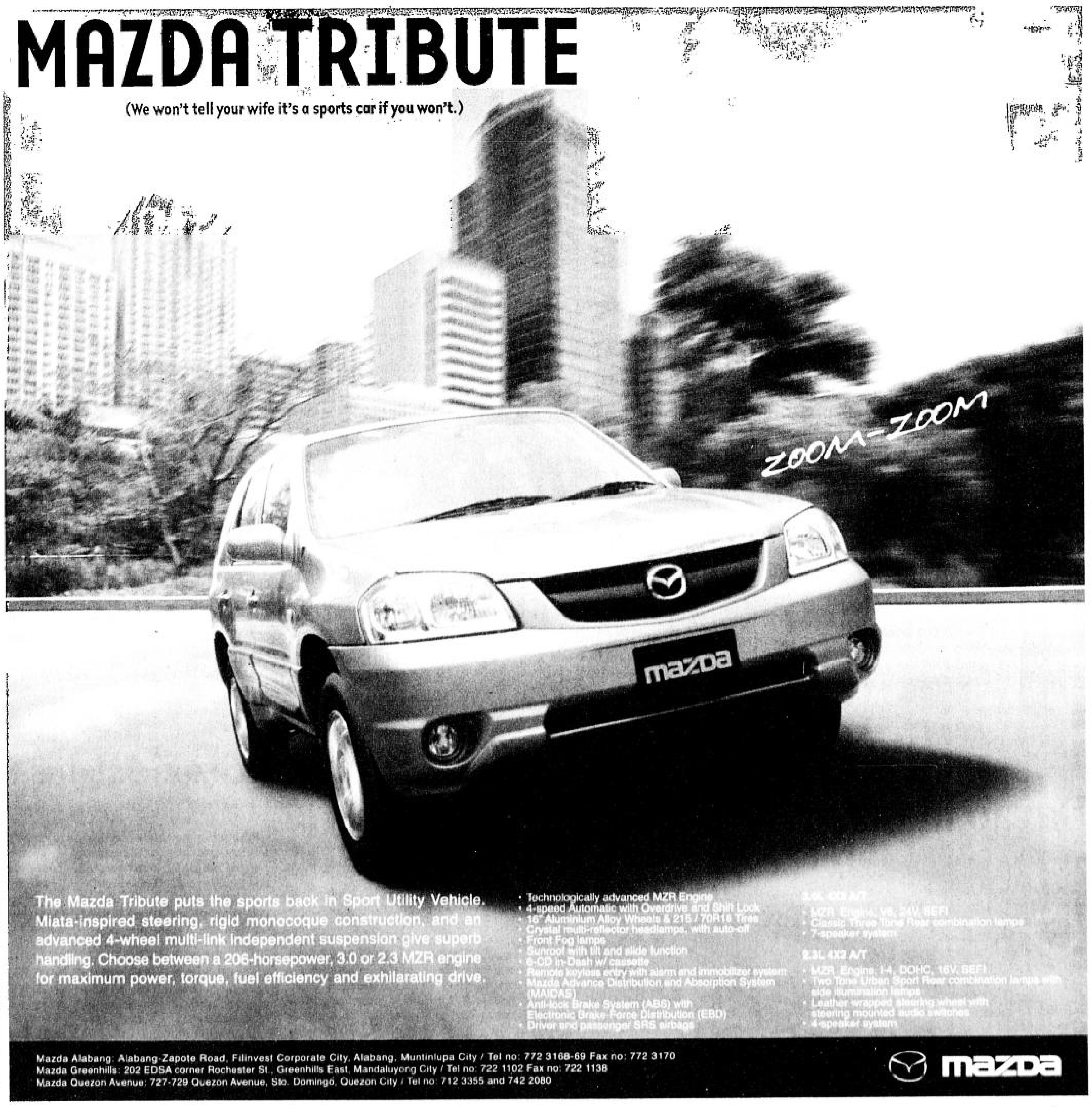
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SUPREME Court ruling upholding the constitutionality of the Mining Act has sparked renewed interest among foreign investors to hunt for oil and gas prospects in the Philippines.

In a briefing in Malacañang, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said the government has signed three service contracts with Chinese, Japanese and Hong Kong oil exploration firms just a month since the High Court ruled that foreign investors could own up to 100 percent in mineral exploration ventures, including crude oil and natural gas.

The three service contracts (SC) with combined investments of $28 million signed over the last 30 days were China's South Sea Petroleum Holdings Ltd. (SC 45 covering the Agusan-Davao basin), Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (SC 46 in Tanon Strait in the Visayan Basin), and the contract between Malaysia's Petronas Carigali with Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. *(See related story on Page B3.)*

If added to two other foreign SCs signed with Gas to Grid Pte. Ltd. of Singapore (Central Cebu) and Premier Oil of the UK (Ragay Gulf, Bicol and Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon province) that were signed last year, Perez said the government had signed a total of five oil exploration contracts, or more than what it had inked in the last six years.



The Mazda Tribute puts the sports back in Sport Utility Vehicle. Miata-inspired steering, rigid monocoque construction, and an advanced 4-wheel multi-link independent suspension give superb handling. Choose between a 206-horsepower, 3.0 or 2.3 MZR engine for maximum power, torque, fuel efficiency and exhilarating drive.

- Technologically advanced MZR Engine
- 4-speed Automatic with Overdrive and Shift Lock
- 16" Aluminium Alloy Wheels & 215 / 70R16 Tires
- Crystal multi-reflector headlamps, with auto-off
- Front Fog lamps
- Sunroof with tilt and slide function
- 6-CD in-Dash w/ cassette
- Remote keyless entry with alarm and immobilizer system
- Mazda Advance Distribution and Absorption System (MAIDAS)
- Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) with Electronic Brake-Force Distribution (EBD)
- Driver and passenger SRS airbags

3.0L 4X4 A/T
- MZR Engine, V6, 24V, SEFI
- Classic Three Tone Rear combination lamps
- 7-speaker system

2.3L 4X2 A/T
- MZR Engine, I-4, DOHC, 16V, SEFI
- Two Tone Urban Sport Rear combination lamps with side illumination lamps
- Leather wrapped steering wheel with steering mounted audio switches
- 4-speaker system

Mazda Alabang: Alabang-Zapote Road, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City / Tel no: 772 3168-69 Fax no: 772 3170
Mazda Greenhills: 202 EDSA corner Rochester St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City / Tel no: 722 1102 Fax no: 722 1138
Mazda Quezon Avenue: 727-729 Quezon Avenue, Sto. Domingo, Quezon City / Tel no: 712 3355 and 742 2080

mazda

Palace to cut JBIC loans by ₱70B

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo exchanges pleasantries with Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki during their meeting in Malacañang.

EDWIN BACASMAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday agreed to scale down or even cancel roughly P70 billion worth of loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation because the Philippine government could not come up with the funds to match the Japanese loan offer.

The agreement was reached between President Arroyo and visiting Japan Foreign Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki during a meeting in Malacañang yesterday.

By cleaning up the government's JBIC portfolio of loans, Malacañang is confident it would accelerate the implementation of other JBIC projects because the government would be able to focus its scarce resources on priority projects.

During the meeting, the President expressed her appreciation to the Japanese government for its generous aid to the Philippines. Japan accounts for 64 percent of all official development assistance loans obtained by the Philippines.

Malacañang identified six projects for cancellation worth close to P25 billion, of which only 32 percent has been disbursed mainly due to lack of budget.

Malacañang also listed 11 projects for scaling down with committed loans of P45 billion, of which only 33 percent had been utilized due to budgetary constraints.

Aside from a clean up of the JBIC loans, President Arroyo also agreed to review the tax treaty between the Philippines and Japan which needed updating considering that it was crafted in the 1970s.

During the same meeting, the Japanese official also said he would see to it that the JBIC would commit to the transfer of the National Power Corp.'s debts to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. *With a report from Abigail L. Ho*

Japan builders to get ₱344M in VAT refund

THE PHILIPPINE government will pay Japanese contractors some P344 million worth of value-added tax (VAT) refunds, putting a closure on the complaint of the Japanese that they need not shoulder taxes on infrastructure projects funded by their government.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the Department of Finance, in consultation with the budget department, has already come up with a payment schedule for the P344-million refund.

The schedule was presented yesterday to visiting Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki. "We gave them (the Japanese government) our schedule, and they are quite satisfied with it," Amatong yesterday said in a press briefing.

She said that of the P344 million, the Philippine government will pay the P322 million within two years. The remaining P22 million will be paid beyond the two-year period.

Under agreements covering projects funded by the Japanese government, VAT payments should be shouldered by the local government agency that acts as the project proponent. But because agencies usually lacked funds to pay for taxes, the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected the VAT from the Japanese builders.

The contractors paid the taxes, but they later complained about the delays in the release of the refunds. *Michelle V. Remo*

Follow the garden rule

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

APPARENTLY, certain stockbrokers want the management of the Philippine Stock Exchange to carry out a Philippine invasion of Hong Kong.

That is the suggestion from the ongoing media campaign of certain stockbrokers. They are asking the PSE board to punish an investor in the local stock market, or whatever is left of the market under this confused cute administration of Gloriaetta.

The investor happens to be First Pacific Co. Ltd., which is the holding company started by super dealmaker Manny Pangilinan, chair of PLDT.

First Pacific happens to be based in Hong Kong. Therefore, for PSE to comply with the wish of those stockbrokers to punish First Pacific there in the Chinese territory, we simply have to conquer Hong Kong.

Right away, ma'am, sir!

* * *

IF OUR trustworthy decent righteous stockbrokers, all of a sudden, become conscience-stricken regarding some hanky-panky in the stock market, yearning to right the perceived wrongs in the system, don't fret! No, my dear, we are not seeing a miracle.

It's not as if we just woke up one morning, and our usually playful stockbrokers all turned into saints overnight, practicing the golden rule: Do unto others...

Anyway, the media campaign against First Pacific, which is said to have been, er, well, "inspired" by those stockbrokers, does not have anything to do with moral uprightness. No, it's not about the golden rule.

From what I gathered, our garden variety stockbrokers did not make their usual killing from a rare multimillion-peso transaction of First Pacific. This company violated the garden rule—it went on its own.

How dare the company leave the influential stockbrokers of PSE out of it!

* * *

YOU see, First Pacific sold its 5 percent interest in the local company called Metro Pacific, developer of The Fort in Taguig or, according to Mayor Jejomar Binay, in Makati.

Anyway, Metro Pacific happens to be listed at the PSE. Those stockholders, based on the media campaign, are saying that First Pacific should have "disclosed" the transaction even before it actually went on to sell them.

Sure ma'am, sir, let's require all the listed companies to disclose to the stock exchange everything and anything which goes on in their minds, even before it actually happens, including all their plans and schemes, and impossible dreams.

That way, we can easily turn the stock market into a casino. Stock investment in this country, after all, has long been regarded as nothing but gambling.

* * *

OUR STORY goes back a few months ago when, in September and in October last year, First Pacific sold some 930 million shares of Metro Pacific in the local market.

The block should amount to more than P500 million, with the Metro Pacific shares fetching at P0.50 to P0.60 per share at that time.

Unfortunately for First Pacific, the transacting broker was not one of those complaining stockholders who are waging the vicious media campaign.

It was the foreign company called Credit Lyonnaise. This is the very same big-time financial institution which the stockbrokers are accusing of "dumping."

That's a term in the stock market which is not flattering to Credit Lyonnaise. It suggests that Credit Lyonnaise did something awfully wrong. It sort of fooled the public!

* * *

BASED on media reports, Credit Lyonnaise executed the sale of the shares, after the prices of Metro Pacific went up sometime in July and August last year.

The reports did not say that the entire stock market, not only the Metro Pacific shares, was going up at that time.

Anyway, First Pacific sold its Metro Pacific shares in September and October, the price of Metro Pacific shares naturally should tend to go down.

And why is that? Well, simply because there were simply just too much of the stocks up for sale. That is what stock trading is all about—it is about supply and demand.

And certain stockbrokers are saying, at least on media reports, that an investor like First Pacific should be held responsible for the drop in the price.

In other words, First Pacific should not unload its investments here, and if it would want to, it should first tell the stock exchange.

And this is supposed to be a free market, ma'am, sir?

* * *

IN AN APPARENT effort to please the loudmouthed stockbrokers, who probably bought Metro Pacific shares, and who therefore lost money when the price went down, the PSE conducted an investigation of the transaction.

The investigation was done by the MIB—the Market Integrity Board—which, by the way, did not have anything to do with aliens.

The three-man MIB is the brainchild of the PSE president, the brilliant lawyer Francis Lim, who thought that the board could help stop the foolishness in the stock market.

Whadayano? The MIB ruled that the listed Metro Pacific did not violate the "disclosure" rules of the stock exchange.

The MIB said that the law is clear: the Securities Regulation Code requires a disclosure of change in ownership, "not the planned or intended change in ownership." This was what certain stockbrokers insisted that Metro Pacific should have done.

They wanted Metro Pacific to report the sale, whether or not it knew what the hell its parent company was thinking of hundreds of miles away. Something like that!

* * *

WHILE those stockbrokers were busy waging the media campaign against Metro Pacific, our beloved SEC—the venerable Securities and Exchange Commission—joined the fray.

In an apparent attempt to fuel the fire, some stupid SEC second tier official said that it looked like Metro Pacific indeed violated some trading rules.

Thus, the price of Metro Pacific shares even went down some more. That was the SEC speaking, after all, and the SEC was supposed to protect public interest.

That was the same SEC, by the way, which protected public interest in the case of the pyramiding Multitel.

The same SEC protected the public by simply issuing to Multitel a license to sell securities to the public, after the same SEC ordered Multitel to stop selling the same securities.

The SEC changed its mind, lifting the suspension of Multitel, because Multitel promised the SEC it would not do anything wrong again.

And the rest is history. Thanks to the SEC protection of public interest, Multitel was able to fool a lot more people, simply by promising the SEC that it would not sin again.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 10, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	6,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	26.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	384,500
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	52.5	53.5	52.5	53	577,200
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	50
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	48.5	47.5	47.5	3,100
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	160,000
International Exch. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.75	48,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	26	26	525,900
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	4,350
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	16,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	3,600
Security Bank Corp.	28	28	28	28	5,000
Union Bank Of The Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	1,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2500	2500	2500	2500	260
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1810	1810	1800	1800	340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.78	6,319,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	930	930	915	925	58,080
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	12,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.034	9,600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	26,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.15	25,639,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1355	1360	1350	1355	111,430
Ivantage Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	180,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	73,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	43,600
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25.5	25	25	234,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	2,402,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	23,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	13,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	6	6.2	6	6.1	1,533,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.36	300,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,010,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	8,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.55	29,846,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	7,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31.5	31	31.5	70,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	57,200
Swift Food Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59	58.5	58.5	48,800
San Miguel Corp. B	79	79	78	79	60,000
Universal Robina Corp.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	19,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	3,696,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	2,250,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11	11	2,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	255,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	5,740,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.165	2,400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	850,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.19	0.215	0.175	0.195	34,340,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.9	3.8	3.8	4,886,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.1	6.2	6	6.1	6,317,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	994,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	1,200,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	90,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	112,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.28	2.32	2.28	2.28	658,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	8,730,000
Polar Property Holdings	2	2	2	2	1,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	300,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	250,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	38,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	220,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	460,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	30,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	28,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	60,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	930,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.04	0.99	0.99	823,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	740,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.25	18.25	18	18	29,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	2,615,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.245	11,670,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,550,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	510,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	1,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	152,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,040,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	80,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	341,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	3,583,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	90,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	179,700,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4	4	4	4	30,000
Benguet Corp. A	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	13,680,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	2,140,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	108,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	53,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0048	227,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.79	1,040,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	1,420,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	850,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	338,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	130,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	7,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.048	0.048	11,900,000

CURRENCIES

January 10, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.766107408	1.000000	56.2220
Japan	Yen	0.007309	0.009541	0.5364
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432851	1.870300	105.1520
Hongkong	Dollar	0.098341	0.128365	7.2169
Switzerland	Franc	0.646613	0.844024	47.4527
Canada	Dollar	0.622093	0.812018	45.6533
Singapore	Dollar	0.464871	0.606796	34.1153
Australia	Dollar	0.580648	0.757920	42.6118
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.032385	2.652872	149.1498
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.204296	0.266667	14.9926
Brunei	Dollar	0.463465	0.604961	34.0121
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019563	0.025536	1.4357
UAE	Dirham	0.208612	0.272301	15.3093
Euro	Euro	1	1.305300	73.3866
Argentina	Peso	0.25882	0.337838	18.9939
Brazil	REAL	0.282103	0.368229	20.7026
Denmark	Kroner	0.134403	0.175436	9.8634
India	Rupee	0.017559	0.022920	1.2886
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201634	0.263193	14.7972
Mexico	New Peso	0.06801	0.088774	4.9911
New Zealand	Dollar	0.53391	0.696913	39.1818
Norway	Kroner	0.121489	0.158579	8.9156
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012863	0.016790	0.9440
South Africa	Rand	0.125984	0.164447	9.2455
Korea	Won	0.000729	0.000951	0.0535
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023941	0.031250	1.7569

Davao makes a mark on global IT map

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP of Davao City-based e-services firms announced that they were pushing for the promotion of Southern Mindanao as an attractive e-services outsourcing destination after the firms posted a total of P13.75 million in contracts during the 2004 e-Services Philippines trade show.

The Association of Solution Integrators in Davao (Asid) said in a statement that Southern Mindanao had been placed on the worldwide outsourcing map due to their coup during the expo.

Asid members include Lane Systems, CDR Software Studio, idsmedia.com, IT & Communications Inc., nTh Systems, Silvercup (Kape At Internet Inc.) and Pixel Weaver.

"Davao is an investor-friendly city with an excellent supply of competent, highly literate, English-speaking manpower, efficient public utilities and world-class telecommunications infrastructure," said Rodney Jao, president of software developer Lane Systems.

Merly Cruz, Department of Trade and Industry regional director for Davao, said the city also had many engineers, computer programmers, lawyers, and other skilled labor.

"Davao is the only major city in the country that offers year-round predictable tropical weather, being situated in a typhoon-free zone," Cruz said. "And contrary to popular perception, Davao is in fact one of the most peaceful cities in Asia and has a very low crime rate. All these factors make Davao an ideal information and communication technology hub in the Philippine south," she added.

Asid members are again participating in the 2005 edition of e-Services Philippines, to be held Feb. 17 to 18 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The yearly e-Services Philippines expo is the country's largest IT outsourcing show. Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, it showcases the expertise of local and multinational companies providing IT and IT-enabled services.

Ecozone status . . .

From page B1

The recommendation came after the Department of Tourism reported that beach resorts in the country showed increased tourist bookings after the earthquake and tsunami devastated leading destinations in Southeast Asia.

Areas declared as tourism ecozones are those that provide facilities such as sports and recreation centers, accommodations, convention and cultural activities, food and beverage outlets, commercial establishments and other special interests and attractions.

Also, such areas should be provided with roads, water supply and power distribution facilities, drainage and sewerage systems, and other necessary infrastructure and public utilities.

Under the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995, as amended, developers and operators of tourism ecozones as well as locator-enterprises enjoy fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

So far, there are 14 tourism ecozones in the country, including Fort Ilocandia in Ilocos Norte, Panglao Island in Bohol and the New Coast project on Boracay Island.

It was reported in May 2004 that Fort Ilocandia Property Holdings and Development Corp. was turning the resort in Laoag City into a tourism ecozone at a cost of P100 million.

State pension fund seeks charter overhaul

THE SOCIAL Security System, whose reserves are expected to be depleted by 2019, seeks to overhaul its charter and implement the reforms needed to ensure its long-term financial viability.

SSS consultant Eriberto Valencia said in a press briefing that the SSS was studying the pension fund systems in Latin America, United States and Southeast Asia to determine the best practices that could be adopted here.

The SSS targets to finalize its "wish list" of charter reforms by the first quarter of the year.

One reform being considered is to lengthen the eligibility requirement for SSS members getting retirement benefits.

"The SSS has been too generous in the eligibility requirement. In other countries, you need to complete 25 years of service to qualify for benefits but here you need only 10 years," Valencia said.

Members with 10 credited years of service are eligible to receive at least P1,200 monthly pension. Those with 20 credited years are entitled to P2,400 a month.

For government employees, whose pension fund is the Government Service Insurance System, the minimum requirement is longer at 15 years.

Also, SSS members need only three years of active service to qualify for death and disability benefits. In other countries, the requirement is longer at 5 to 10 years.

At present, SSS members also have the option to retire at 60 and retirement becomes mandatory only at age 65.

Valencia said one option was to set the retirement age at 65, but there would be a transition period.

"They should also be active in the labor force before reaching the retirement age," he said.

By making the required years of service longer, the SSS can improve the collection of contributions before the actual retirement of members.

He said it would be more difficult for the SSS to cover future retirees if these gray areas were not addressed.

Special provisions are likewise mulled for overseas Filipino workers and the self-employed, to harness their contribution potential.

SSS president Cora dela Paz said another key reform would be the alignment of the benefits with the actual contribution. This is in support of the SSS' policy stance that any increase in benefits can be acceptable only for as long as there is a corresponding increase in contribution.

This year, the SSS has narrowed down its deficit—or the difference between the amount released to members in the form of benefits and the contribution collected—to only P400 million.

The deficit stood much higher at P7.6 billion in 2002 and P3.4 billion in 2003.

Aside from the positive impact of the 2003 hike in members' contribution, the first time in three years that there was an upward adjustment, Dela Paz said the SSS was benefiting from key administrative reforms.

For instance, she said the fund had doubled the number of people at its inspection department in order to "cover more ground." Also, she said the fund had expanded its teller services this year, supplementing the payment services offered by the banks.

PNOC-EC, Petronas of Malaysia sign exploration agreement

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. yesterday signed an agreement with Malaysia's Petronas Carigali Overseas Sdn Bhd for the exploration of a 14,667-square-kilometer petroleum block in offshore Mindoro.

Service Contract 47, one of the most lucrative exploration blocks in terms of hydrocarbon potential, covers two areas in offshore Mindoro: the Tablas Prospect between the islands of Tablas and Mindoro and the Cherry Prospect.

Under the agreement, Petronas Carigali will have an 80-percent participating interest in the contract, while the remaining 20 percent will be held by PNOC-EC.

Despite the lower participating interest, the government will have a 60-percent share in the proceeds.

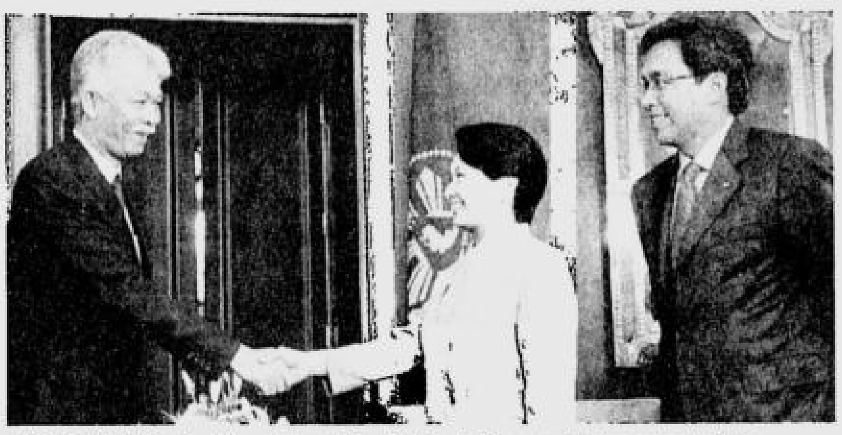
Petronas Carigali has committed to infuse around $12.5 million into the project, which will run anywhere from two years to seven years, to be undertaken in three sub-phases.

Under the first sub-phase or the first two years of exploration, one exploration well will be drilled with option to either drill another well or obtain more seismic data. This phase will entail an investment of $3 million.

The second sub-phase or the next two years of the project will involve the drilling of one exploration well, which will cost $3 million, and the acquisition of a minimum of 500 kilometers of new seismic data, which will be worth around $500,000.

For the last three years of the project, two exploration wells will be drilled, requiring a minimum investment of $6 million.

PNOC-EC president Eduardo Mañalac said the contractor had the option to either enter the next sub-phase or to terminate the contract before going into the next sub-phase of the project.



PETRONAS Carigali president Tan Sri Dato Hassan Marican met with President Macapagal-Arroyo during his visit to Manila for the signing of the exploration deal with PNOC-EC. Also in the meeting was Energy Secretary Vince Perez.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Zero-budget deficit seen by 2008

By Michelle V. Remo

AMATONG

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said the government's budget deficit could be wiped out as early as 2005, if the revenue-raising measures proposed by the Arroyo administration would be passed by Congress this year.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, in a meeting yesterday, told visiting Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki that the Philippine government's goal of a fiscal consolidation could happen earlier than the 2010 target.

"This is because we have very good results in 2004. We are expected to post a deficit in 2004 that is lower than what was programmed," Amatong said in a press briefing, narrating her discussions with the Japanese finance minister.

The DOF said the budget deficit for 2004 would likely hit only P192 to P193 billion, or below the target of P197.8 billion, due to higher-than-expected revenue collection.

Amatong said the Japanese government, the Philippines' biggest provider of official develop assistance, was interested in how the country was planning to solve its fiscal problem.

Amatong said the government's ability to achieve a zero deficit earlier than scheduled was largely hinged on the approval and implementation of revenue-raising measures.

She said the newly enacted sin taxes law was estimated to generate P15 billion in additional revenue a year for the cash-starved government.

The Philippines' chief finance official is also pinning her hopes of raising more revenues on the lateral attrition bill, which was already scheduled for deliberation by Congress' bicameral conference committee, and the bill raising the value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent.

The government expects some P30 billion in additional revenue a year from the higher VAT rate, and another P10 billion from the lateral attrition bill. The latter seeks to establish a reward-and-punishment system for people working in revenue collection agencies, such as the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

The other revenue-raising measures being pushed by the government are the granting of tax amnesty, simplification of the net income tax system and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

Global outlook for 2005

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THE FAMILY celebrated my 75th birthday at Shangri-la Hotel, Makati. Well, not actually in it, but outside in the car park. We went into a beautiful Chinese restaurant and had Peking duck. Well, we did not actually eat it, we just kept peeking at the duck on the next table. However, we did order tiger prawns. These are very expensive as it is hard to mate a tiger with a prawn and the success rate is very low. My daughter wanted banana fritters but I did not want to fritter away my money on a banana. The waiter was a chow mien fellow. The lights were too bright so I had to ask him to dim some. I don't feel old, but I am now a septuagenarian, whereas six years ago, I was a sexagenarian, which was much more fun. I feel like a 26-year-old but i can't find one. You know when you are getting old when:

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

The hardest part of your body is your arteries.

Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.

Your children begin to look middle aged.

You look forward to a dull evening.

Your favorite part of the newspaper is the obituary.

You turn off the lights for economic rather than romantic reason.

You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.

Your knees buckle and your belt won't.

You're 17 round the neck, 46 around the waist, and 120 around the golf course.

Your back goes out more than you do.

A fortune-teller offers to read your face.

Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you see a pretty girl.

The little old gray-haired lady you help across the road is your wife.

You have too much room in the house but not enough in the medicine cabinet.

You indulge in word play instead of foreplay.

I chase my secretary around the desk but can't remember why.

Well, apart from the word play, none of the above applies to me. I am approaching my mid-life crisis with gusto, and I don't need Viagra yet. I feel great and having a hyperactive 7-year-old daughter keeps me young. I have no intention of retiring even though I had a good year.

* * *

AS WE enter the New Year, I think it appropriate to study the major economies and see what impact they are likely to have on our economy. First, and by far the largest economy in the world, is the US. On Friday, the government announced the creation of 157,000 jobs, just a shade below expectations. In 2,004, the Bush administration created 2.2 million job thereby canceling out the 2 million lost in previous years by the manufacturing sector. GDP for 2005 is expected to be about 3.6 percent, which is reasonable but not exciting. There are signs that income and prices are rising so in order to fend off inflation, there will be further rate hikes this year. This might help stem the fall in the dollar, which is antagonizing many countries, especially in Europe.

Outsourcing of production and jobs to low-cost countries will continue and IBM has just sold its computer division to a large Chinese company that will retain the worldwide brand name. Outsourcing of data will benefit Indian call centers while services will go to the Philippines. Even Heinz is outsaucing its tomato paste in an effort to ketchup.

Corporate profits are expected to increase but probably at a slower pace than last year. The budget deficit plus the trade deficit of $55 billion a month and the huge cost of a never-ending war in Iraq are taking its toll. The biggest trade deficit is with China, the world's manufacturing center, but no matter how low the dollar might fall, it provides no relief because the yuan is pegged to it.

The second biggest economy is Japan and here, problems remain. Exports are good but when converted into yen, company profits suffer from the weak dollar and the Japanese government is constantly buying their currency in order to prevent the rate from falling below 100. The domestic market shows no signs of growth and prices have been declining for years. This is known as stagflation—a debilitating disease that is very difficult to cure. The NIKKEI is only 11,000 plus whereas at its peak, it almost hit 40,000.

There seems no way to revive domestic demand especially as the birthrate is very low and the population declining. If the trend continues, in 30 years from now, there will be 30 million fewer Japanese and the senior citizens will outnumber the teenagers. Due to their diet—Japanese lives longer than any other race. Perhaps we should send more "entertainers" there and tell them to leave their babies behind.

China has been growing at 9.3 percent, which is unsustainable, and the government is gradually slowing growth to between 7 percent and 8 percent. The money supply is being reduced, interest rates are likely to rise 0.5 percent later this year for the first time in 12 years, and the country is cutting back on steel, oil, cement and all other commodities.

Outsourcing production and services to China will continue and Lee Kwan Yew, in a speech to a group of Singaporeans, said that China must now teach English in elementary school. He speaks many tongues fluently but said that when he has to write a speech in Chinese, he types it in English and special Microsoft software converts it into Chinese. He feels that a 26-letter alphabet is easier to learn than 2,500 complicated characters. Thailand, Malaysia, India and most Asian countries are now teaching English at an early age and the Philippines is falling behind.

Europe is struggling to maintain GDP of 2 percent and both France and Germany have double-digit unemployment and excessive budget deficits. The strength of the euro is making life very difficult for exporters and the entry of 10 small countries with weak economies and very high unemployment will make the situation worse.

How does all these affect the Philippines? Export growth is expected to fall from 10 percent to 8 percent, while import growth will be 13 percent. This indicates that the trade deficit will double from $1.98 billion to P3.40 billion. Add to this a budget deficit of P180 billion for 2005, and downgrading of MBT, PNB and RCBC by Fitch Ratings, and we do not have a pretty picture. The Senate MUST pass a number of tax-raising bills very soon, or we will be downgraded.

However, there is a bright side too. The decision of the Supreme Court to allow foreign participation in mining and oil exploration could lead to a sizable inflow of foreign capital. Even though the gestation period is long, there is a multiplier effect of 6 so there would be job creation, more infrastructure and eventually large sales of gold and other metals. These benefits will not be in the near future but they will be long-lasting.

Much faster prosperity can flow into the country through the exponential growth of call centers, and this week we saw foreign investment in FH push up the share price from P4.65 to P6.10. So investment portfolios should be skewed in the direction of mines and call centers plus cash-rich companies with steady growth prospects such as SMPH and FPH. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

PSBank
U$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT
Earn as high as 3.5%

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 & up
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
2 months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%
3 months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%
6 months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%

Quoted rates are for individual accounts only and are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax
Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

Have a S M A R T start this 2 0 0 5 ... use the MSI Packaged Software.
PAYROLL
- ensures FAST, COMPLETE & ACCURATE computation of payroll and generation of government reportorial requirements.
Daily Time Recording DTR
- a Time Keeping Software that keeps track employee's attendance, absences, tardiness, UT and OT records.
Personnel Information System PIS
- displays comprehensive 201 Files, and prints pre-defined personnel forms.
FREE DEMO w/in M.M.
OTHER PRODUCTS:
MSI Recruitment System
PROFIT Retail System (Inventory, Sales Manager / Point-of-Sale, Purchase Order)...for Inquiry call 734-8858 / 736-6756 / 735-4892
ATTENTION: MSI PAYROLL USERS
Latest version w/ the new PHIC TABLE for PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION for 2005 is now available.
METROSOFT, INC.
PACKAGED SYSTEMS APPLICATION PROVIDER
LG1 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condo., 7648 Dela Rosa St., Makati City 1230
Tels.: 892-2798 • 894-1525 • 892-4530 • 892-4536 • 894-1043 • 892-2808
Fax: 892-2796 Email: msi@vasia.com

Canon
4-in-1
• Printer
• Copier
• Scanner
• Fax
PRICE P34,950
IR-1210
• Digital Copier & Printer
PRICE P46,500
NEW
• Plain Paper Bubble Jet Fax with Voice Recognition Dialing
PRICE P9,500
3-in-1
• Printer
• Copier
• Scanner
PRICE P28,950
• Digital Multi-Function Network Copier & Printer
PRICE P69,000
• Digital Copier & Printer
PRICE P53,500
• Laser Printer
• Colour Scanner
• Digital Copier
PRICE P20,500
• SUPERIOR COPY QUALITY
• BETTER PRICE
• BETTER SERVICE
AUTHORIZED DEALERS:
Elite
EURO-ASIA
www.elitemachinesinc.com

Asian stocks end up

SINGAPORE—The dollar held steady near its strongest level in seven weeks against the euro on Monday, while stock markets edged higher ahead of earnings reports from tech leaders Intel and Samsung Electronics.

Oil futures, which have fallen about $10 from record highs in October, edged up 0.6 percent to $45.68 a barrel after storms in the US mid-Atlantic and West Coast and forecasts for colder weather in the United States by late this month.

The dollar held most of its gains made after US Treasury Secretary John Snow said at the weekend the Bush administration supported a strong US currency and wanted to cut the budget deficit, though trade was thinned by a holiday in Japan.

"There is nothing startlingly new here, but it gave the market an additional excuse to continue to push ahead with the New Year revival of the USD," said Greg Gibbs, senior currency strategist at RBC Capital Markets.

Shares rose 0.1 percent in Taiwan, 0.4 percent in South Korea and 0.3 percent in Singapore. Hong Kong was flat.

Japanese markets will reopen on Tuesday.

Contract chip maker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. rose 1.5 percent, tracking a 1.4 percent rise in the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index on Friday.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. fell 0.6 percent ahead of its earnings on Friday.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan had edged up 0.1 percent by 0615 GMT.

Investors will focus this week on earnings from key companies such as Alcoa Inc. on Monday, Intel Corp. on Tuesday, Apple Computer Inc. on Wednesday and Sun Microsystems on Thursday.

US retail sales data on Thursday will also be scrutinized for clues on the health of the world's largest economy.

The euro stood around $1.3070 versus the dollar, compared with $1.3051 late in New York on Friday, when it touched its lowest level since Nov. 23 at $1.3023.

The dollar was at 104.64 yen, compared with 104.81 yen on Friday and 105.06 yen the previous day.

A report on Friday showed US employers added 157,000 employees to payrolls in December—not too far from economists' expectations of 175,000 jobs—completing the strongest year for job growth since 1999.

Technology shares rose in Taiwan as investors bet on strong earnings from Intel and shrugged off declining revenues at contract chip makers TSMC and United Microelectronics , announced after the market closed on Friday.

Contract chip maker United Microelectronics rose one percent, while the tech sub-index gained 0.3 percent.

Most Asian share markets fell last week, weighed down by fears that the US Federal Reserve might abandon its pace of gradual interest rate rises for a more aggressive approach.

Reuters

Oil firms toward $46, weighs Opec sentiment

SINGAPORE—Oil prices climbed toward $46 a barrel on Monday, bolstered by tougher Opec talk on defending prices and the continued risk of a US cold spell to thin winter fuel supplies.

US light crude rose 29 cents to $45.72 a barrel, building on last week's nearly $2 rise and breaking beyond the market's month-long $40-$45 trading range. Traders saw resistance at $46.35, the highest since Dec. 1.

Weekend storms on the West Coast and in the mid-Atlantic areas served a reminder that winter is not yet over. Many forecasters expect colder weather by late this month.

In the short-term, however, they say warmer-than-normal conditions will persist, giving refiners additional time to build up stockpiles. Last week they rose by 1.2 million barrels.

Crude oil inventories are already well above last year's levels, stoking fears among some Opec members of a possible price collapse when the northern hemisphere winter ends and global demand ebbs in the second quarter.

Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said last week that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) might have to cut production quotas if US oil prices fell below $40 a barrel, although he did not see that happening soon.

Saudi Arabia, Opec's biggest producer, is thought unlikely to back cuts if prices are still in the $40s for fear that sustained high fuel costs could hurt global economic growth.

Opec members said last week they had implemented the cartel's 1 million bpd supply cut from Jan. 1.

Prices were also helped by supply disruptions across the globe, with output in the North Sea running 345,000 barrels per day (bpd) below normal late last week due to bad weather, while 145,000 bpd of US Gulf of Mexico production remained closed due to damage from last September's Hurricane Ivan.

In Iraq, exports from the country's southern oil terminal resumed on Saturday after a one-day power cut, although flows through the northern pipeline remained halted.

Royal Dutch/Shell restored 42,000 bpd of Nigerian production last Friday after a month-long community dispute, with full flows expected later this week.

A total 144,000 bpd had been shut in by the dispute as well as pipeline vandalism. *Reuters*

Central bankers, regulators review ways to spur economy

BASEL, Switzerland—Central bankers, joined by commercial counterparts and financial regulators from around the globe, on Sunday discussed ways to ensure smooth economic growth amid worries over widening US deficits.

The two-day meeting, held at the Bank for International Settlements, examines cooperation among bankers and watchdogs as cross-border ties strengthen, meaning that sparks in one corner of the globe could provoke fire in another.

"The first topic was the world economy and its implications for financial institutions," Hirofumi Gomi, head of Japan's watchdog Financial Services Agency, told reporters.

For the global economy, signs are emerging the expansion is losing steam after a robust 2004.

Japan's recovery is looking shaky, Britain is slowing and domestic demand has failed to revive in the euro zone.

This leaves the United States as the biggest driver of the world economy along with emerging Asia heading into 2005.

Earlier on Sunday, the head of the International Monetary Fund warned the US budget deficit was "truly excessive" and that the world's leading economy must resolve the problem.

"America must resolve the problems linked to its budget deficit, which is now truly excessive," wrote IMF chief Rodrigo Rato in Italy's La Stampa newspaper.

World growth topped 4.6 percent in 2004, its most robust in over 30 years. Growth is expected to exceed 4 percent this year despite risks of a further fall in the US dollar and rising energy costs.

Entering the meeting, Belgian central bank governor Guy Quaden said: "As usual, (we will have) an exchange of views on the financial and economic outlook for the world."

Range of issues

Bank of Japan Governor Toshihiko Fukui said the meeting would discuss a wide range of issues including the outlook for the global economy.

For Japan, the world's second largest economy, he painted an optimistic picture.

"I think the outlook (for Japan's economy) is not so bad. I am always cautiously optimistic," Fukui said.

"Including foreign exchange, there is a risk markets overall could move in an irregular manner at any time. So in that regard foreign exchange movements could be a risk and we are watching them carefully."

European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet is scheduled to hold a news conference on Monday to discuss the world economic outlook.

In past meetings in Basel, central bankers have discussed currency moves, with some officials warning that a further dollar fall would encourage central banks to diversify their foreign exchange reserves away from dollar assets.

Analysts say more weakness in the dollar—which has lost 25 percent in trade-weighted terms since early 2003—could pose risks to the world economy, especially in export-reliant Asia.

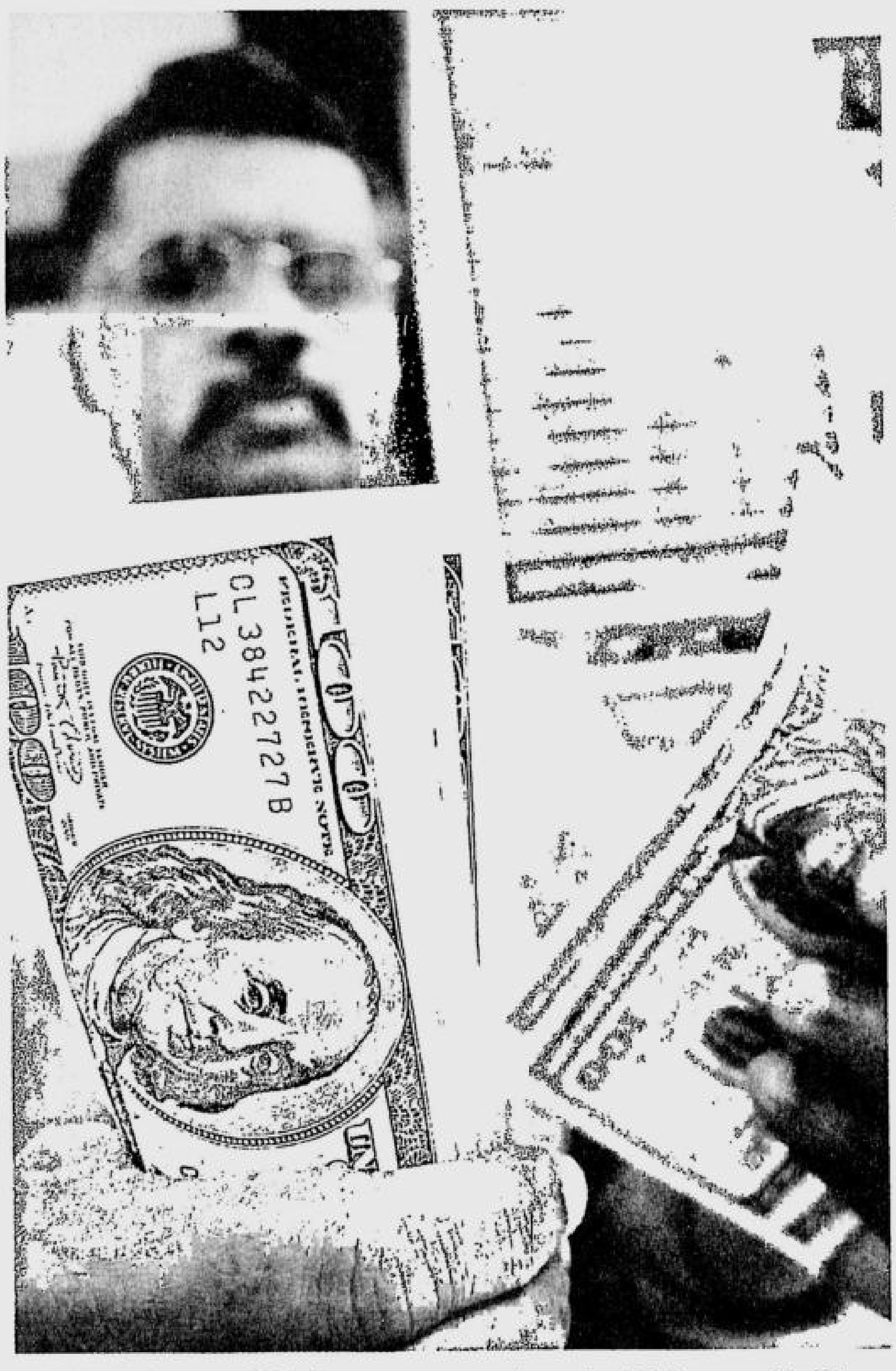
The dollar has been under pressure in the past two years due to the huge US current account deficit, above 5 percent of GDP, and recent speculation Washington was content to see a weaker dollar.

In addition to economic developments and the global financial system, the agenda of the talks would include consolidation of financial institutions and issues on hedge funds, Japan's Gomi said.

He noted a need for more detailed coordination and information-exchange among regulating authorities worldwide.

Commercial bankers, who join the closed-door G10 meeting once a year, are expected to discuss barriers to consolidation and economic risks, one participant said.

"This is not a crisis management and coordination meeting. It's a chance to get together and chew the cud," he said. *Reuters*



A MONEY dealer counts US dollar notes at a money changer booth in Sngapore. The US dollar was weaker against the yen in quiet morning trade 10 January with the Japanese market closed, dealers said.

AFP

BOJ's Fukui optimistic on Japan economy

BASEL, Switzerland—Bank of Japan Governor Toshihiko Fukui said on Sunday he was cautiously optimistic about the outlook for Japan's economy but potential irregular market movements, including currencies, could pose a risk.

"I think the outlook (for Japan's economy) is not so bad. I am always cautiously optimistic," he told Reuters on the sidelines of a bi-monthly meeting of central bank governors at the Bank for International Settlements.

After robust growth in the first three months of 2004, Japan's economic recovery has been showing signs of slowing as demand for exports moderates.

The economy grew just 0.2 percent in July-September on an annualized basis following a contraction of 0.6 percent in April-June, a reversal from the first three months of 2004 when it grew at an annualized rate of 6.8 percent.

Fukui said one of the downside risks for the world's second-largest economy was how long an IT inventory adjustment would last. "But it is widely said that nothing like the adjustment we saw in 2000-2001 would happen this time," he said.

Fukui, speaking in New York last week, said he was confident about the Japanese economy given rising capital expenditure, shrinking excess capacities of firms as well as falling unemployment and non-performing loans.

Fukui later told reporters the underlying recovery trend of the Japanese economy remained intact.

A sharp yen appreciation could also damage the recovery of Japan's export-oriented economy. The yen hit a near five-year high of 101.81 per dollar in December, driven by broad dollar weakness, but has since fallen back to around 104.50 yen.

"Including foreign exchange, there is a risk markets overall could move in an irregular manner at any time. So in that regard foreign exchange movements could be a risk and we are watching them carefully," Fukui said.

Reuters

NEXT GENERATION VEHICLES

The race is on for hybrid leader; Japanese firms in the lead

DETROIT, Michigan—American automakers are accelerating their efforts in hybrid technology, with one notable success, but the Japanese lead over Detroit was in clear evidence as the North American International Auto Show got underway Sunday.

The market remains in its infancy, with Japan's Toyota and Honda the early leaders.

But Ford Motor Co. scored a coup at the auto show opening with the hybrid version of its Escape sport utility vehicle named North American Truck of the Year by a panel of auto writers.

Ford division president Stephen Lyons said the automaker is having trouble keeping up with demand for the company's first hybrid model and the first American gasoline-electric hybrid.

"It's the first SUV hybrid," Lyons said. "It's unique. You get all the advantage of hybrid fuel economy and the practicality of an SUV."

Lyons noted that it is an advantage to be first to market with a hybrid SUV, ahead of Toyota and General Motors, which are planning to introduce their own models to the United States in 2005 and 2006.

"Very clearly there's a demand way beyond what we thought," he said, noting that the 20,000 units planned for US production this year "won't be nearly enough."

General Motors presented only a prototype of its hybrid SUV called Graphyte but has several models in the pipelines, and is working with DaimlerChrysler on new engine technology for hybrids, which run on either its gasoline engine or on its electric motor depending on driving conditions.

Thad Malesh of the Automotive Technology Research Group said he expects up to 50 hybrid models on the US market by 2010.

And the research firm JD Power and Associates sees hybrid sales of over 500,000 vehicles by 2010, or nearly three percent of the overall US market.

"It could certainly take a very large minority position 10 to 20 percent, maybe a bit more," Malesh said, adding that the recent spike in fuel prices "has already caused people to think about alternatives to current engines.

They still want to buy a large SUV, but what they're looking for is a way of to get somewhat better fuel efficiency."

Toyota sold some 54,000 of its popular Prius hybrids last year, double the number of 2003.

That remains a drop in the bucket among the 17 million autos sold in the US last year, but demand is outstripping supply, helped by movie stars like Cameron Diaz and Leonardo DiCaprio, who are members of the Prius club.

Still, hybrids may be held back by their higher cost and a perception that the engines lack power.

"The hybrids are coming. Whether this will constitute a trickle or a tidal wave is still to be determined," said Lindsay Brooke of the research firm CSM Worldwide.

And it remains to be seen whether US firms can catch up to their Japanese rivals.

"From a technological standpoint, (US automakers) probably can" match the Japanese, said Malesh, who adds that other factors are in play.

"Will they compete effectively? Will they have as many vehicle or as much share? Probably not for quite a while. The biggest hurdle is they're so late to market. The average buyer is going look at it in a very common sense way and say, 'well Toyota has been out there for almost 10 years and Ford and the rest are just getting in the market.' For some people it won't matter but a lot of people will care, and they're just not going to get those people to come to a Ford or a Chrysler or a GM until they get five or six years of experience."

AFP

GENERAL Motors Corp. unveiled its Graphyte hybrid concept vehicle during Press Days of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan 5.

REUTERS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Unhealthy lifestyle linked to cataract and glaucoma

ACCORDING to recent medical researches, some of the causes of cataract and glaucoma may be related to a person's lifestyle. And since you can change or modify your lifestyle, you have a fighting chance of controlling or preventing them. Even those already afflicted need not worry as there are innovative treatment technology currently available for patients and doctors to better manage these diseases.

So, what's the difference between cataract and glaucoma? Dr. Annabelle Ching, a cataract and glaucoma specialist at the Asian Eye Institute (AEI), explains, "A cataract is a condition wherein the lens of the eyes turns white or 'opacifies.' As we age, the lens of our eyes opacifies to the point of blocking the passage of light into the eye. This condition generally affects people 40 years old and above, although there are cases attributed to steroid use and trauma." She adds that the most common s ymptom is the blurring of vision, which is described by many as painless, progressive, and "cloudy." Some sufferers may also notice a worsening of their vision when exposed to bright light.

"Glaucoma, on the other hand, is a disease that affects the optic nerves of our eyes," Dr. Ching says. "Initially, it causes irreversible loss of peripheral vision. Eventually, it will affect the central vision permanently," she adds.

As for treating these diseases, Dr. Edgar Leuenberger, another glaucoma and cataract specialist at AEI, says that "The only proven treatment for cataract is surgery, which is painless and done under eye drop anesthesia on an out-patient setting; whereas for glaucoma, the procedure starts with a complete eye examination, visual field examination, optic nerve examination, corneal thickness measurements, eye pressure measurements, examination of the eye's drainage structures. In some cases, medication, additional laser therapy, and even operative surgery may be necessary."

For her part, AEI glaucoma and cataract specialist Dr. Imelda Yap-Veloso, who is also a clinical associate professor at the U.P. College of Medicine and founding member and officer of the Philippine Glaucoma Society, and a glaucoma specialist at the Asian Eye Institute says, "Age may be an important risk factor for cataract formation, however, harmful effects of our lifestyle may play an important role as well." Dr. Veloso cites obesity, nutritional deficiencies, excessive calorie (fat) intake, smoking, alcohol, and stress. "Aside from heredity, inflammatory eye disorders, exposure to ultraviolet rays, eye injuries and the use of steroids may lead to cataract development.

Unhealthy lifestyles that result in diabetes may in turn increase a person's risks of developing a cataract." She adds that studies now show a strong association between smoking and a number of common eye diseases, including cataract and macular degeneration. So the more you smoke, the greater you put yourself at risk.

Dra. Yap-Veloso also points out current researches, which show that healthy foods may prevent cataract and other age-related problems. The National Cancer Institute of the USA reported in 2000 that, "A new scientific base is emerging to support a protective role for fruits and vegetables in prevention of cataract formation." It even recommended increased consumption of a wide variety of vegetables and fruits, particularly dark-green leafy vegetables, cruciferous vegetables and deep-yellow-orange vegetables, as well as a wide variety of fruits, like citrus and deep-yellow-orange fruits.

But what if you suspect that you already have a cataract or glaucoma and are experiencing their symptoms? There's only one way to find out and really be sure – consult your ophthalmologist. He or she alone can detect the presence of a cataract or glaucoma as well as other conditions that may be causing blurred vision or other eye problems.

For more information on Cataract, Glaucoma, and treatments for other eye and vision problems, visit the Asian Eye Institute at the 9th and 10th floors of Phinma Plaza, Rockwell Center, Makati City or call 898-2020.

LAFARGE CEMENT SERVICES BRINGS JOY TO CHILDHOPE KIDS

Streetkids from Makati, Pasay and Balintawak under the care of Childhope Asia enjoyed a morning Christmas Party at the Makati Avenue branch of McDonald's last December 2004. The Lafarge Cement Services Inc sponsored the event to let kids be kids again. Fifty kids played games, sung songs, and enjoyed a hearty breakfast meal. Lafarge employees also donated toys so each of the kids has something to bring home. Lafarge has also become a Hands On Manila corporate partner. With the partnership, HOM will work with Lafarge to develop a customized volunteer program that will enable their employees to engage in meaningful and rewarding volunteer projects. In photo are Teresita Silva, president of Childhope Asia; Erdogan Pekench, CEO, Lafarge Cement Services; lawyer Gianna Montinola, president and chair of Hands On Manila; Edgardo Soriano, SVP, HR Lafarge; and Mike Watson, industrial director of Lafarge Cement Services.

PHILIPS LAUNCHES NEW PIXEL PLUS 2 TV WITH AMBILIGHT

Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE), Europe's No.1 consumer electronics company, recently introduced the Pixel Plus 2 TV, its latest, state-of-the-art TV. The new television packs the most advanced TV technology: Pixel Plus 2 which provides the clearest, most vivid images onscreen; and Ambilight that further enhances the viewing experience by extending the light beyond the screen. With these two technologies, Philips presents viewers with the clearest pictures in an enhanced viewing environment. Photo shows (from left) PCE connected display product manager Mark Sta. Maria, event hosts Edu Manzano and Tessa Prieto-Valdes, and PCE general manager Angelo Valenton.

I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN !
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI
I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN

INDUCTION OF 2004-2005 NAMA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Shown are the 2004-2005 officers and directors of the National Association of Mapua Alumni (Nama), the premier alumni organization for all graduates of Mapua Institute of Technology, led by Nama president Hernando Limsin with their advisers after their induction into office by Dr. Renaldo Vea, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Mapua Institute of Technology. The induction ceremonies were held at the Davao Room of the Westin Philippine Plaza last Aug. 21.

The brand that makes the PDA 'Hapee'

WHEN Cecilio K. Pedro, owner of Lamoiyan Corp (which happens to be the first Filipino company that manufactured and launched local dental care product Hapee toothpaste, despite intense competition) became aware that his move to introduce a new brand will pave the way for him to be of service to his fellowmen, he decided to improve his products to be at par with existing brands carried by multinational companies.

All of the product improvements and significant changes did not pass unnoticed but eventually got the nod of experts in dental care - the Philippine Dental Association (PDA). Hence, it is stated in every package that Hapee Toothpaste is PDA-approved or professionally endorsed by the PDA.

This is a very important milestone for Lamoiyan Corp with less than 20 years in the dental care industry, the company had already passed the rigid requirements of the Philippine Dental Association. It only goes to show that Lamoiyan is on the right track in doing their business.

The PDA endorsement is a remarkable feat in itself, but the company is not stopping there. Lamoiyan Corp continues to improve their products by means of using state of the art facilities and machineries not only to ensure that they deserve the PDA approval but also to satisfy the Filipino consumers, the best way they can.

"Hapee" Toothpaste, Lamoiyan Corporation's very own brand, came to the market with half the price of the other brands. Although it is more affordable than other brands, the company sees to it that it is truly superior in quality. This first Filipino-made toothpaste is fortified with maximum fluoride protection, mild mint taste, Allantoin and Vitamin E for gum protection. From the company's original Hapee Pure White, there came a wide variety of dental care products that all have the quality seal like Hapee Sparkling Gel, Hapee Gold, Hapee Premium Mint and Hapee Kiddie Toothpaste.

Lamoiyan Corp also carries Gumtect and Kutitap, manufactured to provide consumers with more options in oral and dental care.

Softer, whiter

REGINE SINGS SKINWHITE'S SHINE

Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez recently signed an agreement with Splash Corp to sing the newest SkinWhite Whitening Lotion jingle, 'Shine'. Regine's passionate rendition breathes new life to the award winning song Shine. A truly inspiring song that brings to life the power of SkinWhite Lotion. Regine also sings on the new Shine music video, which fondly features shining moments from the SkinWhite Lotion commercial. Photo shows (seated, from left) Dong Saga, SkinWhite product manager; Arnold Liong, Foote Cone & Belding president and CEO; Regine Velasquez; Mars Aaron, Splash president and COO; RJ Buenaventura, Splash marketing manager; Maurice Reyes, SkinWhite product manager; (standing from left) Scotch Bulacja, SkinWhite product manager; Ana Gonzalez, Foote Cone & Belding account manager; Jenny Wieneke, Foote Cone & Belding AVP/division head; and Vera Alcoseba, Foote Cone & Belding VP/account service director.

Sunrise Holiday Mansion's new assistant GM

THE SUNRISE Holiday Mansion has a new assistant general manager in the person of Ma. Hencel Paula R. Olonan who was recently appointed to pave way for constant management improvement in the hotels operations. Olonan is the daughter of architect Enrique Olonan and businesswoman Cecilia Olonan. She is currently pursuing a masters degree in business administration at the Ateneo de Manila Business School, Rockwell, Makati. Sunrise Holiday Mansion is a 115-room hotel located at the Royal Tagaytay Estate Area, Alfonso, Cavite, with email add: www.sunrisehotel@sunrise.com. The hotel aptly fits the diverse needs of local and foreign clients for room accommodation, live-in or live-out seminars, conventions, meetings, weddings, baptismal rites, graduation balls, debuts, dinner dances, cocktail parties and other social functions.

First Data Western Union Foundation donates $1 million to aid victims of Asian tsunami

THE FIRST Data Western Union Foundation announced that it will make a donation of US$1 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support victims in the Asian countries most impacted by the recent earthquake and tsunami that struck the region.

"Many of our consumers, employees and agents live in the countries that were devastated by this natural disaster," said Christina Gold, president, Western Union Financial Services. "This monetary contribution made by the Foundation is a way to lend a hand and show support in the rebuilding process."

People in the Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR, Laos, Mongolia, Northern Mariana Islands, the Philippines and Taiwan wishing to make individual donations to support disaster relief efforts can visit a Western Union agent location in their country and complete a money transfer in US Dollar, Euros, Pound Sterling, Swiss Francs or Canadian Dollar, directly to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies free of charge.

"We are looking into every way that we can do to assist the recovery process," said Ian Marsh, senior vice president and managing director, Asia Pacific, Western Union Financial Services. "It is encouraging to see our employees and business partners are very eager to support their colleagues and communities in this region."

The Western Union Money Transfer service also is available in many areas that were affected by the tsunamis, so family and friends around the world can continue to transfer money to loved ones living in the impacted areas. In some cases, Western Union locations may be temporarily closed and the company is working diligently to restore service as quickly as possible. To inquire about service availability and the nearest Western Union location, consumers can call: Asia Pacific - (61)2 9226 9555; China - 800 820 8668 (toll free number in China); Philippines - 1 800 109 378 376 (toll free number in the Philippines).

Since its inception, the foundation has made more than 30 donations to support disaster relief efforts around the world. In 2004, the Foundation donated US$565,000 worldwide to support various disaster relief efforts.

NEW HACCP AWARDS FOR CDO-FOODSPHERE

Meat processing firm CDO-Foodsphere Inc was recently granted with two more Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certificates for its Pizza Hut meat toppings and beef toppings by the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) after a series of stringent auditing processes. CDO Bibbo Hotdog was earlier awarded with the same recognition by the meat inspection agency. At the awarding ceremonies held in Valenzuela City were (from left): Dr. Claire Sangcal, NMIS-HACCP team head; Dr. Olga Lucas, NMIS-HACCP auditor; Dr. Rosalinda Lucas, NMIS-HACCP auditor; Efren Nuestro, NMIS executive director; Maritess Escarcha, CDO-Foodsphere's assistant general manager; Amy Cuna, CDO Foodsphere's vice president for manufacturing and Joel Marders, CDO-Foodsphere's production manager.

Inquirer reporters recognized in Business Journalism Awards

FOR THE fourth year now, Globe Telecom Inc, has supported the business journalists of the country's major dailies, as they gather each year to recognize excellence in their craft.

The Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines or Ejap, which started in 1985, created the Ejap Business Journalism Awards to encourage the development of business journalism in the country. The 13th Ejap Business Journalism Awards is in cooperation with Globe Telecom.

This year's awards, held last Aug. 25 at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati City, recognized six business reporters from various beats who have produced accurate, timely and relevant economic stories.

The articles of the journalists were evaluated based on their content (60 percent) - if the stories adhere to truth and responsible journalism as manifested in the accuracy, fairness and balance of the presentation, as well as depth of reporting - and style (30 percent) - if the stories clearly and effectively communicate the message as shown in the writing style, clarity, logical presentation of issues, coherence and flow of ideas. There is also a peer vote (10 percent), wherein colleagues rate one another.

The winners in the 13th Ejap-Globe Telecom Business Journalism Awards were: Clarissa Batino of the Philippine Daily Inquirer for Banking and Finance Reporter of the Year, Elaine Ruzul Ramos of Manila Standard for Trade and Industry Reporter of the Year, Doris Dumlao of the Philippine Daily Inquirer for SEC and PSE Reporter of the Year, Lenie Lectura of Today for Energy Reporter of the Year, Rocel Felix of Philippine Star for Agribusiness Reporter of the Year and Manolette Tabingo of BusinessWorld for Telecom Reporter of the Year, who is now part of Globe Telecom's public relations.

The Feature Story of the Year was awarded to BusinessWorld's "Controversies Hounding the BOT Law" authored by Cathy Rose Garcia, Cecille Yap and Leotes Marie Lugo.

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Globe senior vice president Rodolfo Salalima and Ejap president Lawrence Agcaoili handed over the prizes to this year"s awardees.

The panel of judges comprised of former Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr., Asian Institute of Management dean Eduardo Morato Jr., University of Asia and the Pacific senior economist Victor Abola, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Corporate Affairs Director Fe Dela Cruz and Synergeia Foundation president and CEO Milwida Guevarra, who chaired the board of judges. Jessie Cabaluna of SGV & Co was responsible for evaluating the scores given by the judges.

Business Jou m Aw
SHOWN are (from left): Ejap president Lawrence Agcaoili, Inquirer reporter Clarissa Batino and Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima.

siness Journalism ds
FROM left: Ejap president Lawrence Agcaoili, Inquirer reporter Doris Dumlao, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima and Globe Telecom SVP lawyer Rodolfo Salalima.

ilipino
meric
of
Site

FACT HANDS OVER DONATION

Americans of ChevronTexaco Employee Network Philippine Site (FACT) recently donated several boxes of old clothes, books and toys from their Love Box Drive Project to Mandaluyong's communities in need through the Andres Bonifacio Integrated School. Fact is an employee organization within ChevronTexaco committed to promote awareness and appreciation of the Philippine culture, encouraging professional growth and to actively participate in the community consistent with the principles of The ChevronTexaco Way. Employees of ChevronTexaco companies in the Philippines such as Caltex, ChevronTexaco Malampaya LLC and Manila Shared Services Center distributed the Love Boxes' during the school's Family Day celebration on Dec. 10. In photo (from left): Sheryll Quintos, Manila Shared Services; Rachel S. Sta. Maria, ChevronTexaco Malampaya and Fact president; Chie Sebastian and Sally Cabral, both from Caltex ; Ram Sta. Maria-Asi and Abis principal Dr. Juanita Valle.

ARGENTINA, 555 AT NMIS ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES

Top canned meat brands Argentina and 555 recently participated in the Department of Agriculture's National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) anniversary celebration. During the event, visitors and guests enjoyed free sampling of Argentina Corned Beef, Argentina Carne Norte, Argentina Meat Loaf, and 555 Carne Norte which were offered at special prices. Manufactured by the Pacific Meat Company Inc (PMCI), Argentina and 555 are among the few canned meat brands that complied with NMIS's Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), a food safety system developed to address food safety hazards and quality. Present during the NMIC anniversary festivities were (from left): Dr. Claire Sangcal, HACCP auditors team leader and plant operation inspection division head; Jinky Mercado, PMCI plant manager; Raffy Lantin, PMCI marketing director; Dr. Efren Nuestro, NMIS executive director; and Rex Agarrado, PMCI VP for operations.

Serendra: A perfect home for balikbayans

AS THE excitement of the holiday season starts to wind down, Serendra, the innovative residential community development of Ayala Land Inc (ALI) and Community Innovations Inc (CII) at the Bonifacio Global City, remains upbeat with the emergence of a new and promising market — the balikbayan Filipinos.

According to ALI senior division manager Kate Ilagan, Serendra is perfect not just for local Filipinos but also for the balikbayan, who has grown accustomed with city life but at the same time, longs for the suburban lifestyle he grew up with. They will find that the unique concept of Serendra ends the compromise for those who long for serene, natural surroundings while still being part of the hustle and bustle of the city.

Serendra achieves this by being the only low-density residential development that features clusters of low-to mid-rise condominium buildings and devotes about 65 percent of its 12-hectare land to lush, spacious gardens. Balikbayans who long for a spacious suburban lifestyle will find that Serendra is a perfect embodiment of this atmosphere, as evidenced by several themed gardens located all over the development.

Serendra is also the only residential development that has a full range of amenities similar to those found in country clubs, such as swimming pools, badminton and basketball courts, jogging pathways, and spacious lawns, along with the privileged use of function rooms and lounges.

For balikbayans, Serendra conjures an environment that will allow them to enjoy suburban life complete with modern conveniences, accessibility, and security. ALI takes pride in the convenient location of Serendra. The development is close to lifestyle centers and malls. It also has easy access to main thoroughfares such as the C-5 road which provides a fast route to and from the airport while also making out-of-town trips a breeze. "Having Serendra as a home enables balikbayans to make the most of their short stay in the country," says Ilagan. Serendra enables maximized use of their limited time here, yet leaves unhurried time to meet up with friends and family.

Furthermore, owning a unit at Serendra is also seen as a good source of income for business-minded balikbayans. Says Iris Josef, ALI division manager and CII project development manager, "Serendra is already considered to be a good investment because it is located at the next biggest business district. Unit owners can rent out or resell their units. Either way, they will definitely reap profits."

"Like all Ayala-developed properties, they can be assured that Serendra is well-maintained and extremely secure, especially during their long absence," adds Ilagan. Balikbayans won't need to worry because there are trained personnel responsible for the safekeeping of their homes, maintenance of the garden units and amenities.

Serendra truly recognizes the need of balikbayans for a home right at the heart of the city. With this in mind, Ayala Land, Inc is offering a special promo to them. The first 100 balikbayans who will visit the Serendra pavilion will get a free Mind and Body Harmony massage at The Suriya Spa. Units are also currently available in attractive installment schemes at very low interest rates.

For inquiries, please call 848-6000 or 849-0551, e-mail serendra@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit www.serendra.com. Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everyday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bits
Clips

ACT supports Gawad Kalinga Project

THE ATENEO Children's Theatre (ACT), the oldest among the country's children's theatres and the only one that has been defined as a theatre of, by and for Filipino children continues to be an avenue towards serving the greater society. This year, through their 73rd production, The King and I, scheduled at the Irwin Theatre on the last weekend of January and the first weekend of February 2005 they will donate an amount for the building of more houses for the Gawad Kalinga Project. The King and I has a mammoth cast of Ateneo, Miriam, and St. Bridget grade schoolers. Among their guests in the invitationals are teachers and students of public schools as well as students in centers for special children.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CEBU
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
DepEd Bldg., PGSO, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Telephone Nos 253-9614, 254-1649, 416-6065

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Catering Services for the SUBSISTENCE of 1,400 jail inmates
Location : New Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC), Kalunasan, Cebu City
Brief Description : MEALS (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
Approved Budget for the Contract : P6,300,000.00 or P30.00/person/day
Contract Duration : Five (5) months (February 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005) or 150 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50%of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of bids shall also be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 4-12, 2005
2. Pre-bid conference	January 13, 2005, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
3. Opening of bids	January 25, 2005, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	January 26, 2005
5. Post-Qualification	January 27, 2005
6. Notice of Award	January 27, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P1,000.00) to the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the Provincial Treasurer.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
BAC Chairman

(PDI–January 4 & 11, 2005)

New year, new skill

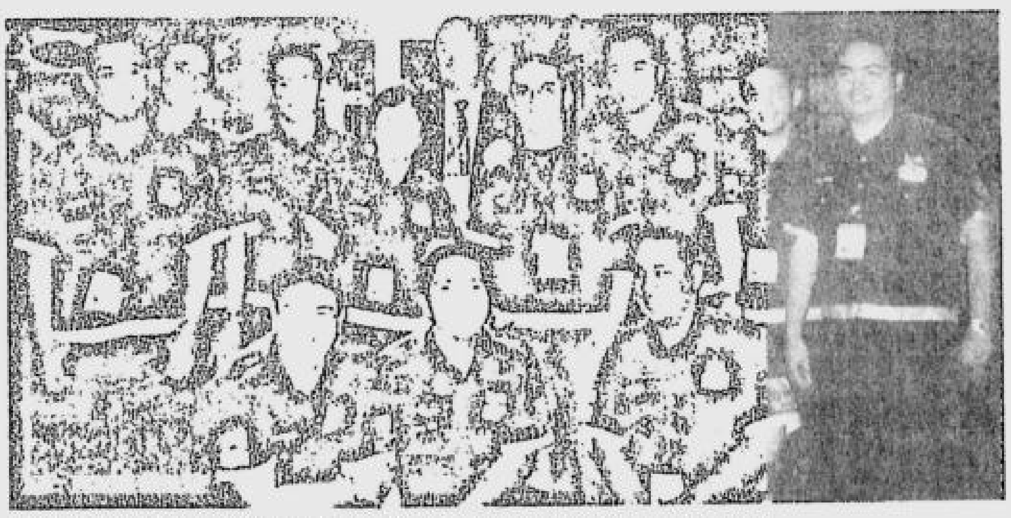
FOR the new year instead of looking for a job, why not learn a skill to earn a living. You can be at your own and be a successful entrepreneur like others. If employed, additional skill means extra income. A Series of seminars on different skills will be conducted by ALPS Training Center. The seminars are held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rotary Center, Roces Ave. cor. Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City. Contact ALPS at 900-7876; 0919-8237159; 0910-3745519.

Youth Power 2005

THE NEXT Step Events Planner and Philippine Youth Sphere Group are inviting students to participate in the first-ever grand event for the youth dubbed - Youth Power 2005 with the theme, "Face the Challenge of Tomorrow". The two-day event is slated on Feb. 4 to 5, at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard Pasay City. Touted as one-of-a-kind interactive experience for all the youth, Youth Power aims to empower teens to express and showcase their ideas and talents in different form of challenging competition and highly educational activities and forum. Interested exhibitors, conference and contests participants may inquire at The Next Step Events Planner tel. nos. 813-0148/893-9729.

20th Parangal ng Bayan

THE PARANGAL ng Bayan Foundation Inc is announcing the search for outstanding Filipino achievers in various fields of endeavors. It will feature the prestigious Parangal ng Bayan Award in the following categories - Law and Judiciary, Government and Public Service, Media, Arts and Culture, Sports, Entrepreneurship, Medicine and Allied Sciences, Science and Technology, Education, Agriculture and Forestry. The award is bestowed on individuals in recognition of their outstanding achievements. For inquiries you may call - 404-2302 and 404-2818. Deadline of submission is on Jan. 15.



NESTLÉ FOODSERVICES JOINS 13TH ASIA FOOD EXPO

The Nestlé FoodServices (NFS) booth showcased NFS products, systems and services at the recently concluded 13th Asia Food Expo (Afex) at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. The NFS team came in full force headed by its department head SVP Manuel Parroco (2nd row, center). The NFS team continues to prove that it is truly the Total Solutions Provider in the foodservice industry.

BENBY ENTERPRISES INC

BENBY JOINS 8TH SUPERMARKET SHOW

Benby Enterprises, exclusive distributor of imported quality products participated in the recent 8th Supermarket Show held last Nov. 4 to 6 at the World Trade Center. The Benby Booth exhibited premium products such as Filippo Berio Olive Oil, Loacker, Murray Sugar Free Cookies, Keebler Cookies, Colavita, Hunt's Tomato, Act II Popcorn, Pokka and Dak Canned Meat. Product samplings and cooking demonstrations were some of the highlights of event. People from the audience enjoyed the sample sandwiches and sumptuous pasta dishes prepared by chefs after the demonstrations.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao,
Q. C. back of
Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

HEALTH/FITNESS

MEDTECH XRAYTECH MIF 8255641 8256486 PQUE

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

AKHIN THAI MASGE (02)8347357

AROMATHERAPHY 752-0018

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

MASSAGE 8545348 WARREN

MR. UNIVERSE SPA
1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

Facial / Massage Ofc 534-4003

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

HOUSEHOLD

EFFICIENT MAIDS
PROV'L. & CITY ALL AROUND MAIDS SCREENED W/REF. NBI POL. CLEAR. 873-7055•873-5062•873-7057

NEWLY ARRIVED PROVINCIAL MAIDS MIDWIFE NURSE YAYA COOK LABA H'GIRL/BOY DRIVER SCREENED W/CLEAR. CALL "JOY" 872-2792•872-0265•873-5271

Quality Maids 822-7269

APPLIANCE REPAIR

Laundry Machines Refs
Fast Service T-493-1121

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

AA Maid Yaya w/NBI 4547542

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

MAIDS w/ NBI Ref 4392490

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC
SINCE 1948 T:7312672

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

Yaya H'Maid Cook 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

'Kamias #11 K-I cor K-6th NEW ' 9210255 9219967 9220539

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

SMILE CITIHOMES & SMILE ANNEX
Bgy. Zabarte Novaliches, Quezon City
for as LOW as P2,672/mo.*
PHINMA
812-PPHC • 0917-812-PPHC • 0922-812-PPHC
(7742) (7742) (7742)
marketing@phinma.com.ph • www.phinmaproperties.com
*Based on P265T HDMF Loan Value as of June 27, 2004
FORTE REALTY 830-0372 • CONCORDE REALTY 427-7720
WELCOME REALTY 413-3313 • BOOMLAND REALTY: 817-9650
REACH OUT REALTY 983-1804

HOUSE & LOT

MALABON

Tugatog 165m² 3.5M 7227543

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

Mktl Villages Best Buy! Investment 09189392979

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

MAKATI

1.2M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

78sqm nr Rockwell 2BR 2TB + Pkg 09178991581

MAKATI CONDO RENT/SALE
410-8395 / 0919-8504468

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry-3br-2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

CONDO,BNEW, RFO09192189817

PASIG

ParcRoyale 1BR 3.1M neg 4121825

VVERDE 3BR 1.5M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

142sqm DON ANTONIO HTS 3BR2TB 2PKG 09178991581

RIZAL

CAINTA / ANTIPOLO Thse
2BR FA50 nice P1.1M-1.5M
Pgibig/Inhse/Bank 0920-9115081

LOT

KALOOCAN

420m² P1.2M BALUBAD ST NOVALICHES 802-2912

MAKATI

McKinley Hills Global City P10M 634-1212

RIZAL

RICHMOND nr Ortigas Ext COMML 200m² Ph1 P6T/m² RESD'L 164m² P5T/m² w/view RUSH 9338423 / 6356003

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MARIKINA

House For Rent 3BR 2TB / Garage Vista Valley Call 9413237

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

PARANAQUE

HSE NR SM BCTAN 5BR 3TB 19T/MO. 09178571089 BONG

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Res888 3br FF 50tneg 412-1825'

QUEZON CITY

T'HSE 4BR 4TB w/Attic
2CGrg Bellevue Subd. nr. Grace Christian H.S. Olc Hr 374-8832

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR,2BR nr P.GIL 5891978 5634007

561-0960 0920-4136412 AJ 5,500 - 7,000 New Built House

QUEZON CITY

2bdr QC 7259419

2STRY; 2BDRMS; GARAGE NR ABC5 NOVALICHES CALL 7497572 7162007 09195945702 TESS

FOR LEASE

NEW!
FOUR SEASONS SALCEDO
luxuriously and elegantly furnished
2 BR, 3 BR units & 2 and a Den
8935788 / 8168381 / 8125577
Brokers welcome

ROOM & BOARD

120l Mla 7118679 / 7836781

BF Pque 8275345 / 8257524

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

REVIEWEES Only
Nr Review Ctrs Newly Renovated
T-4934748 / 4938486

BEDSPACE

Male 1.5 Pasay 8315026

RESORT LEASE/RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7262989

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Frncisco Gold1 EDSA 73.4m² w/carprk 12T all-in 412-1825

★Med.Plz Ortigas 43.68m² 4121825

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

LOOKING FOR HIGH END PROPERTIES?
Sale / Rent 7181154
Aldrin 0918-9392979

JOB OPPORTUNITY:
5 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- Must be BSEE/Associate EE Graduate
- Must Pass the PRC Examination
- Knowledgeable in CAD
- Not more than 40 years old
- At least 5 years experience in project eng'g/estimation
- Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila
- No criminal record

Please send resumé together with NBI Clearance, Transcript of Record at:

Box No. MN 2085
Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg
Chino Roces Ave. cor Yague & Mascardo Sts., Makati City

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

FORBES/DASMA/URDA
Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

ORTIGAS VILL
Condo many Choices
Aldrin 0918-9392979

PACIFIC PLAZA SPECIALIST
Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.5M Flexible Terms Offsetting OK 09178348080

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

02 Adv SS fld 495T 7211877

03Lncr Invecsll 480T 7211877

99GLXI A/T 1/O 320t 6459298

NISSAN

97 Cefiro A/T P280T 09177488929

TOYOTA

01REVO GSX A/T 490T 7211877

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Safari Trooper Terrano Town-Lite-Hi Ace Delica Serena Vanette Space Gear Elf Canter etc. Finance T-In 9120647 / 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Sunflower Transport Hi-Ace Coaster 6313496 (Res) / 5344003 (Ofc)

CAR VANS 929-2811 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

MB 7415897•09208328657

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 7262989

1.5% CAR LOAN 534-4441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 5315577

2% w/oTaking Car 8966830/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 6567665

SHINKAWA LTD.

Philippine Representative Office

Manufacturer of Semiconductor Equipment

Is in urgent need of:

ONE (1) SERVICE ENGINEER

- ○ male, 25 to 28 years old
- ○ graduate of Electrical/Electronics Engineering course
- ○ preferably with experience in diebond/wirebond semiconductor machines
- ○ good oral and written communication skills
- ○ with good moral character
- ○ preferably residing in Baguio City
- ○ to be assigned in Baguio City

Please send resumé at:
Unit 304 The Sycamore Building
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or
email at: a-castano@shinkawa.com.ph

(Deadline for submission of application and comprehensive resumé is on Friday, January 14, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

PUYAT AMBASADOR TYPE Complete Like New 6310213/33

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

EDUC PALN 2528373/2557990

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

G Ret adult/F 09185221929

PHIL . DOG SCHOOL
w/Full Guarantee T721-37-36

WANTED TO BUY

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE ORIGINAL DOLOR'S KAKANIN OF MALABON HAS NOW A MAKATI OUTLET ! FOR ORDERS AND INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 412-0617 and 282-3230

CEPALCO

CAGAYAN ELECTRIC POWER & LIGHT CO., INC.
33 Toribio Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City

An Invitation for Expression of Intent to Bid for the Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Commissioning, Financing and Operation of a 20MW Diesel Power Plant

Expression of Intent to Bid is hereby solicited from qualified and interested parties to plan, design, finance, construct, own, operate, and maintain a generating facility, which shall supply a portion of the electricity requirements of CEPALCO in Cagayan de Oro City, the Philippines; CEPALCO solicits a long-term supply of approximately 20 MW of generating capacity from bunker-fired diesel engines to be located within Cagayan de Oro City. Interested parties are advised to send their Expression of Intent, together with a brief description of their company, experiences in actual power plant project design, installation, commissioning and operations, as well as their company's statement of financial conditions and bank references, which shall be the bases for pre-qualification, to:

The Chairman
Power Supply Bidding Task Force (PSBTF)
Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co., Inc.
33 Toribio Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines
Tel. +63 8822 723254/725211; Fax: +63 8822 726019
Email: psbtf@cepalco.com.ph

The Expression of Intent to Bid together with all accompanying documents must be received by the CEPALCO PSBTF not later than **5:00pm (Philippine Time) of January 21, 2005.** The documents may be sent via facsimile or email to the above addresses provided that the exact hard copy thereof is received by CEPALCO PSBTF not later than five (5) days from receipt of such facsimile or email. An invitation to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference to be held in Cagayan de Oro City will be sent not later than **February 4, 2005** only to those who have expressed their intention and had been adjudged as pre-qualified by the CEPALCO PSBTF to bid in the project.

(Sgd.) **CECILIO U. SUMAOY**
Chairman, Power Supply Bidding Task Force
CEPALCO

10 January 2005

(PDI - Jan. 11, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d biznz 09209112910

WORK FROM HOME 8376068

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

PANADERO 744-0577

Personal Driver/Asst.
Below 30 yrs old Report Rm 303 100 F Manalo St Cubao 9-12am thurs Oly

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Personal Driver/Asst.
Below 30 yrs old Report Rm 303 100 F Manalo St Cubao 9-12am thurs Oly

FEMALE

Masseure 534-4003 631-3496

MANDALUYONG

Skin Care Training 532-2115

MALE/FEMALE

IN-HOUSE MARKETING
FREELANCE MARKETING
AGENTS for uniforms
843-7633/37; 843-7539

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
SECRETARY/OFFICE CLERK

- Female, between 23 to 30 years old
- College graduate
- At least 2 years relevant work experience
- Pleasing personality
- Good moral character
- Good oral and written communication skills

SEND YOUR RESUMÉ WITH RECENT 2 X 2 PICTURE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2005 TO
EMPIRE PLAZA CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION
1473 G. Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. # 253-5067
ATTN: HANS ONG

RUSH SALE

Office Condo Unit
Cityland Condominium 10 Tower 1
Unit 2414, 20th Floor
6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Floor Area – 65.56 square meters
Please call or text Ms. Jojo Punsal
0917-8332722

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

In Memoriam

In loving memory of our beloved

Marisette Galang-Recto

January 22, 1963 - January 11, 2004

We, her husband **Vice-Governor Ricky** and daughter **Raina Micchael**, family, friends and god-parents offer the following Masses to commemorate Marisette's first year of passing.

A special Mass will be held on January 11, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at the Function Room of the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. After which her crypt will be blessed and Novena prayers said by family and friends present.

Masses will be offered for her at the following churches:

- **Christ the King Church**, Greenmeadows, Q.C. .... 6:00 PM
- **Santuaro de San Jose**, East Greenhills, S.J. .... 6:15 PM
- **St. Sebastian Cathedral**, Lipa City .... 5:15 PM
- **Mt. Carmel Church**, Lipa City .... 4:00 PM
- **Basilica of the Immaculate Conception**, Batangas City .... 6:15 AM
- **Incarnation Catholic Church**, Brand Blvd., Glendale CA, USA .... 5:30 PM
- **St. Anthony de Padua**, Maroa Blvd., Fresno, CA, USA .... Jan. 9, 2005
- **St. Lukes Catholic Church**, Beach Park Blvd., Foster City, USA .... Jan. 12, 2005 8:30 AM

We enjoin all readers to pray for her eternal repose.

The family of the late

Dr. Leon J. Galang

of San Nicolas, Minalin, Pampanga

wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation for all your prayers, messages of love and support, flowers and for being there during his illness, until he joined God our creator and at this time of bereavement.

We wish to thank all relatives and friends, doctors and nurses who cared for him whilst in hospital, all the priests who visited and blessed him especially Archbishop Paciano D. Aniceto. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

May his light continue to shine and inspire us to be the obedient and faithful servant of our Lord.

Our Dearly Beloved

Manuel Luis "Buloy" E. Fajardo

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 8, 2005 at the age of 73.

His loving wife **Rosario**; children **Melissa** and **Roy Aspilla**, **Melanie Fajardo**, **Celeste** and **Eryx Abcede**; grandchildren **JR** and **Molly**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Matnog City, Sorsogon Province until January 10, 2005. On January 11, 2005 his remains shall be transported to Sorsogon City, to lie in state at the St. Anthony Funeral Parlor, Sorsogon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 13, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Sorsogon Catholic Cemetery.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

7th FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200 PASEO DE ROXAS, CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS 817-47-11 • 817-47-12 • 817-47-13
817-5017 • 817-5016 • 817-5014 • 817-1441/45
FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA)** formerly known as the ***PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA)*** is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the lease of about 1.71 hectares for mixed use purposes and landscape development of about 6.86 hectares of its property known as the ***ESPLANADE***, located at the west end (Bay side) of the Central Business Park I – Island A (CBP I-A) Bay City, Pasay City.

Qualified participants are:

1.) Any Filipino citizen of legal age,
2.) Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private, of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is created and organized under the laws of the Philippines.

Interested parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 in cash or Manager's Check starting on January 17, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the Secretariat, PRA Real Estates Bids and Award Committee (PREBAC) 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City.

Further information, inquiries may be made to the PREBAC in the above address with telephone numbers 817-4711 to 817-4713 (trunklines).

(Sgd.) **TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI--Jan. 7, 11, 17, 25, Feb. 1 & 7, 2005)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all local T-41D Engine Repair Shops/Facilities to apply for eligibility and to bid for the repair / overhaul of two (2) T-41D Engine Assy (SNs: 808807-R and 808783-R) with an approved budget of P2,800,000.00 chargeable against CY 2004 Aircraft Maintenance Fund.

Likewise, the AFP invites all local suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of four (4) sets of Main Rotor Blade Assy with PN/NSN 204-011-250-113 / 1615-01-092-1256 with an approved budget of P31,424,000.00 chargeable against CY-2004 Aircraft Maintenance Fund.

Only bids from entities who have authorized repair facilities for T-41D Engine Assy shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting January 04, 2005 until February 02, 2005 during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at the BAC Secretariat Office, AFP Logistics Command, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Eight Hundred Pesos (P2,800.00) for the T-41D Engine Assy and Thirty One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Four Pesos (P31,424.00) for the Main Rotor Blade Assy. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Representatives are required to present a Certification from their foreign principal that they are authorized to transact business on behalf of their principal as well as Special Power of Attorney issued by the principal before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on the following dates:

Nomenclature	*Date/Place*
Two (2) T-41D Engine Assy (SNs: 808807-R and 808783-R)	January 28, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Four (4) Main Rotor Blades with PN/NSN 204-011-250-113/1615-01-092-1256	January 28, 2005 at 11:00 A.M. at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Bidders may inquire in writing to the BAC Secretariat three (3) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadlines for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes are as follows:

Nomenclature	*Date/Place*
Two (2) T-41D Engine Assy (SNs: 808807-R and 808783-R)	February 09, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Four (4) Main Rotor Blades with PN/NSN 204-011-250-113/1615-01-092-1256	February 11, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids pursuant to RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid

(Sgd.) JORGE G. NECESITO
RADM AFP
Chairman

(PDI–Jan 4 & 11, 2005)

GIA®

Thailand Campus

Learn about Gems & Jewelry

From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70+ year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
The most recognized gemological credential

G.G. Program starts March 14, 2005
GIA Thailand Campus

Bisco Tower-12th Fl., 56/12 Sub Rd., Bangrak, Bangkok Thailand
Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77
Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc.th.com
www.giathailand.com

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Quirino
Municipality of Diffun
-oOo-
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Community Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will applied to eligible payments under the contract of Rural Infrastructure Component for which his Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Diffun, Quirino as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB) as MEDIUM B or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and to bid for
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid for the Concreting of Isidro Paredes – San Isidro Farm to Market Road is P 18.3M. The contract works which shall have contract duration of about 120 calendar days will involved Pipe Culvert & Drainage Excavation, Embankment, Subgrade Preparation, Aggregate base Course, PCCP, 610 mm & 910 mm RCPC, Grouted Riprap.

   Minimum Required Equipment:
   No. of Units - Description - Capacity
   2 - Motorized Grader - 110-130 HP, 2 - Vibratory Road Roller - 10 tons at least; 2 - Water Truck with Sprayer - 1,500 gal capacity, 2 - 1-bag Conc. Mixer - 8 cum / day, 2 - Concrete Vibrator (rod type); 2 - Bar Cutter; 2 - Stake Truck; 2 - pay Loader - 275 HP, 8 - Ten Wheeler Dump Trucks - 9-10 cum / load, 2 - Backhoe - 50 cum / day, 4 - Transit Mixer - 3.5 - 4 cum capacity, 2 - Concrete Cutter

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Requirements	**January 20, 2005 / 5:00 PM**
Issuance of Bidding Documents	**January 18 – January 31, 2005 @ 5:00 PM**
Pre-Bid Conference	**February 1, 2005 at 9:00 AM**
Opening of Bids	**February 15, 2005 at 9:00 AM**

4. Prospective Bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheet from the BAC Secretariat. Eligibility requirements in sealed envelopes, properly bound, with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to: The BAC Chairman, Municipal Hall, Diffun, Quirino.
5. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particular relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRR - A.
6. Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders by the Office of the Bids Awards Committee, Municipal Hall, Diffun, Quirino upon payment of the non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (1,500.00)
7. The implementing agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Jan. 4 & 11, 2005)

FORT BONIFACIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR CONTRACTOR'S ACCREDITATION FOR FORT BONIFACIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECTS

Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) invites accredited contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license Category of "A" Registration, and at least 5 years active experience in the construction industry to apply for CONTRACTOR'S ACCREDITATION for FBDC projects in the Bonifacio Global City. Proposed Year 2005 projects to be bid cover architectural, structural, civil, electrical, telecommunication and sanitary/plumbing works with expected cost of Php 500,000,000.00

Contractor's Accreditation Questionnaire Form and List of Documents Required to be submitted are available at FBDC office, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner Second Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

The following schedule of activities shall be followed:

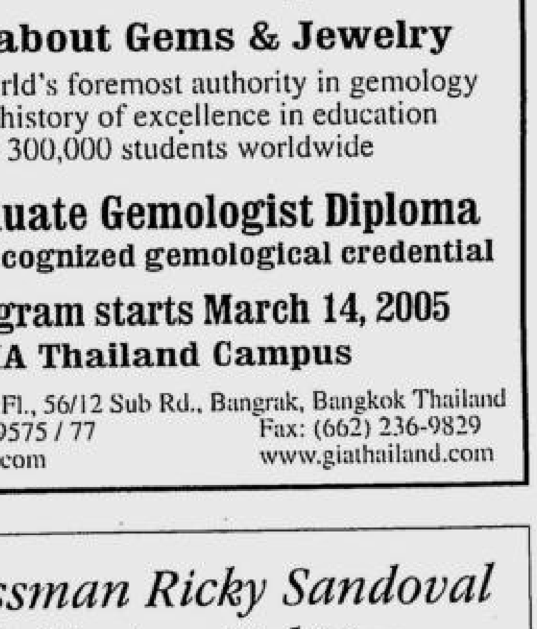
1. January 12-14, 2005 (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) – Issuance of Contractor's Accreditation Questionnaire Form / List of Documents Required.
2. January 21, 2005 (3:00 p.m.) – Deadline for submission of accomplished forms / Documents Required at FBDC office.

FBDC hereby reserves its right to reject any or all applications of contractors, and to accept applications of contractors that meet the criteria.

Should there be need for any clarification or have any inquiries, please feel free to call Noemi B. Alelojo at telephone No. 818-3601 loc. 3302 or Fax No 815-90 69.

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

Congressman Ricky Sandoval with Marissa Del Mar



DEL MAR

ONLY in his second term of office, Congressman Federico "Ricky" Sandoval has blazed trail of sterling achievements very much befitting his mandate as an astute and uncompromisng Representative of the people of the City of Malabon and the Municipality of Navotas. During his previous neophyte congressman, Congressman Sandoval exhibited an immense zeal and dedication to his job as evidenced by his being named to the elite annual list of Ten Most Outstanding Congressman of the 11th Congress by Graphic and Philippines Free Press magazines not only once but thrice. Congressman Sandoval distinguished himself as a member of the very popular "Spice Boys" of the House of Representatives. As a "Spice Boy," Congressman Sandoval provided refreshing breath of new vigor and a sense of renewed optimism in the Philippine legislature. More of congressman Ricky Sandoval as he gets Up Close and Personal with Marissa del Mar, as the featured guest that will be aired on January 11, at 11 p.m. IBC 13.

NEW wellness finds /C3

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** • TUESDAY **FITNESS** • WEDNESDAY **2BU** • THURSDAY **FOOD** • FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

How to start exercising

Part two

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

DO SOMETHING you enjoy.

This is crucial. If you enjoy what you do, you will greatly increase your chances of sticking to your exercise program. Don't do a workout just because everyone else is doing it or because you heard that you can burn mega-calories.

Yoga might be the "in" thing and it has many benefits but, if you absolutely dislike it, look for something else.

On the other hand, give a new activity a chance to grow on you. Don't give up after the first session. It's normal to feel awkward in the beginning. Try a workout for at least two weeks before deciding whether it is for you or not.

Where to exercise

Both the home and gym have their advantages and disadvantages. Working out at home is convenient and affordable but there are many distractions. If you exercise at home, make sure you have a reliable workout book or video to guide you. Better yet, hire a fitness instructor who does home service.

Gyms offer equipment that you don't have at home, instructors to help you do the exercises properly and the social motivation to keep you going. However, they can also be expensive and inconvenient if they are located more than 15 minutes from where you live or work.

You may also feel claustrophobic with the hordes of people during peak times —before and after work, probably also the time you are free.

Fit exercise to schedule

Really determined and imaginative people who lead very busy lives manage to squeeze exercise into their hectic schedules by doing what they can at odd moments of the day. Follow their example and do 10-minute segments of aerobic exercise throughout the day (for example, 10 minutes of walking in the morning, 10 minutes of stair climbing in the afternoon, 10 minutes of walking in the evening).

Spread out your strength and flexibility exercises also. Do some in the bathroom as you get ready for work. Do some in the office during your coffee break (obviously, you should choose the practical ones you can do while sitting or standing). Do some at home while watching television. If there is a will, there is a way.

The best time to exercise

If you wake up instantly in the morning with a cheerful attitude but fade away quickly early in the evening, you are definitely a lark or a morning person. If you have a hard time waking up and can't even talk for the next hour but are alive and energetic at night, you are an owl.

For obvious reasons, larks feel better with morning exercise and owls work out better in the late afternoon or early evening.

But what if you are a lark who has to beat the traffic rush to get to work and can only work out in the afternoon? Or what if you are an owl who comes home too late and can only exercise in the morning?

If this is your situation, don't despair. Your body can adapt to almost any condition if you give it enough time. Experts recommend giving yourself at least one month to adjust to an exercise schedule that is contrary to your natural energy flow.

Staying motivated

Keep a record of how often you exercise. Psychologists have found this a good way to motivate yourself to stick with your workout sessions (or any other lifestyle change you want to make).

Have realistic goals. Don't expect miracles. It took a while to become unfit; it will also take a while to become fit. Unrealistic expectations can be very discouraging.

Anticipate obstacles and make plans to deal with them. Potential obstacles might be traffic, work schedules, an unsympathetic spouse or just plain laziness. Whatever the obstacle, think about how you will overcome it so you won't be overwhelmed and give up.

Boredom and injury are two reasons why people quit exercising. Cross training is a way to avoid this. It prevents boredom because you don't do the same thing week after week and it prevents injury because it distributes the stress of exercise among various joints and muscles.

The technical definition of cross training is doing different exercises on different days or on the same day. So the most basic form of cross training is the good old gym routine with aerobic (cardiovascular), strength and flexibility components.

An example would be to use a stationary bike for 30 minutes, lift weights for 45 minutes and stretch for 10-15 minutes. If your workout routine looks something like this, congratulations! You are already cross training!

Stop if it hurts

Everyone is built differently. What's perfectly fine for your friend may be painful for you. A good common-sense rule is simply "if it hurts, don't do it." Following this rule will prevent unnecessary trips to the sports medicine doctor.

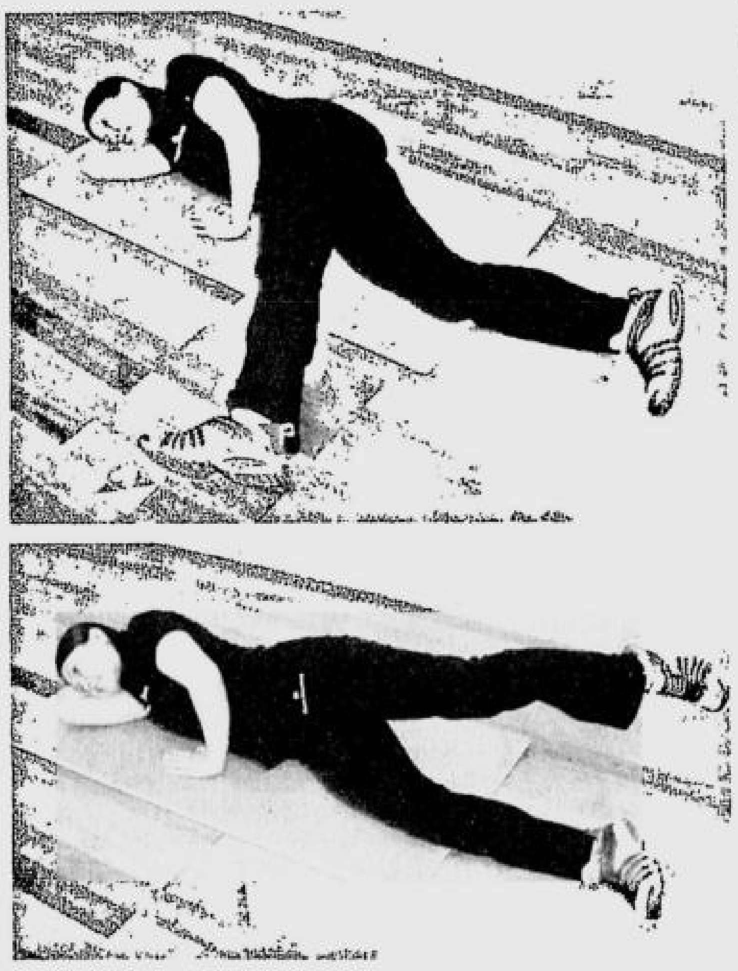
However, there is a difference between muscle fatigue and joint pain. Muscle fatigue or feeling like your muscles are tired is normal when you exercise. You may also feel some muscle soreness in the 24 or 48 hours after exercise.

Joint pain is different. If you feel pain in your joints (knees, lower back, shoulders, elbow) during or after exercise, pay close attention to what your body is trying to tell you.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Pilates side kick



THIS Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens the abdominals while stretching the hamstrings and front of the hips.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your side with one hand in front for balance. Ankles, knees, hips and shoulders should be in a straight line.
2. Raise the top leg a few inches, flex your foot and swing it forward.
3. Then point your toes and swing the leg backwards.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions. Do the other side.

Performance tips:

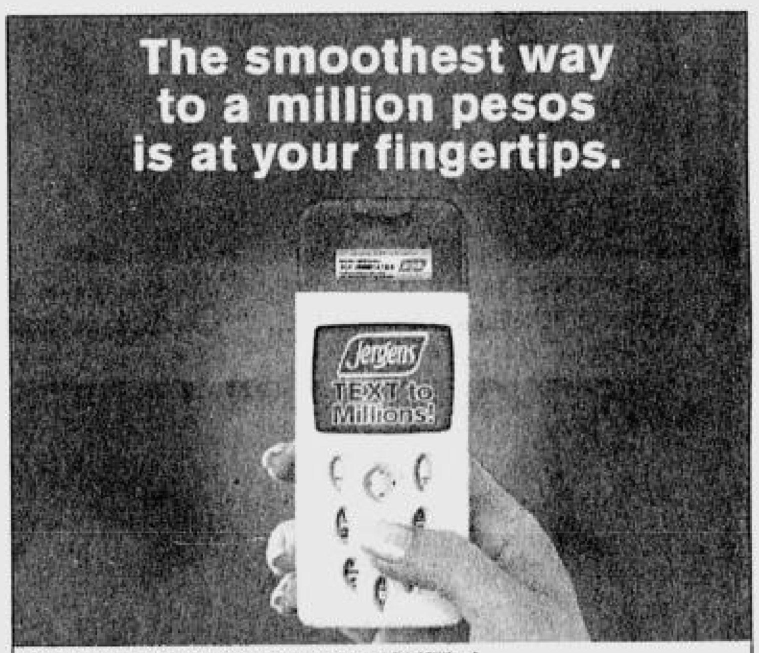
1. Inhale as the leg goes forward; exhale when the leg goes backwards.
2. Prevent your body from rocking back and forth by tightening up your abs and waist.
3. Move with control and precision. Avoid jerking.
4. Visualize balancing a glass of water on your hip and shoulder. Try your best to keep the water from spilling.
5. Advanced options:
   a. Instead of putting one hand in front, place it behind your head.
   b. Instead of lying flat, do the exercise on your elbow. Place the top hand on the floor or behind your head.

Repetitions:

Do 10 repetitions per side.

SAY GOODBYE TO DARK SCAR FOREVER!

T (02) 4118319
T (02) 4143082
TO ORDER BY TEXT TO
09173787955



The smoothest way to a million pesos is at your fingertips.

Get a chance to win free cellphone loads and P1 Million!
First time texters must register as follows:
BNT REG <City or Town>/<Province>/<Name>/<Complete Address>/<Sex>/<Age>/<Code>
Send to 399 for Smart & Talk 'N Text subscribers or 2350 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers.
See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2105 Series of 2004

YOUR PROBLEM:
LIMP, THINNING HAIR

SVENSON'S HAIR LOSS Rx:
Ultra-Lush Volumizer Treatment

Does your hair appear wispy and withering? Svenson International can turn your hair from limp and thinning to lush and thick with Ultra-Lush Volumizer Treatment. It is specially formulated to revive every strand and produce thicker, stronger-growing hair. A fuller and lush look will be restored -- your hair's true "crowning glory!"

You don't have to suffer from hair loss. Take the Svenson solution for your thinning hair and look forward to more lushness and thickness. Call Svenson for a FREE hair and scalp check-up.

Woman AT Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
QUEZON CITY 4/F Cedar Exec. Bldg.
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre

STROKE
(Brain Attack)
is mainly due to
BLOOD CLOT

Lumbrokinase
CAPSULES
The only dietary supplement proven to DISSOLVE BLOOD CLOTS

YOU are at HIGH RISK if you have:
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Heart Disease
- High Cholesterol
- Obesity
- A Stressful Lifestyle

IWASAN ang STROKE ...
Mag-[illegible] na.. para walang bara!

Available at all Mercury drug & other leading drugstores. For inquiries about product and dealer promo please call Hotline Nos. (02)8942932, (02)8942667 or 0919-6250944 or email plasmin inquiry@yahoo.com

HIT-a-STRIKE WIN-a-PRIZE!
ADMIT ONE
WATCH OUT FOR THE RED HEAD PIN TO APPEAR.
HIT A STRIKE AND GET A CHANCE TO PLAY THE PRIZE MACHINE TO WIN AN EXCITING PRIZE.
november 15, 2004 - february 15, 2005
VALID FOR OPEN PLAY ONLY
(Opening to Closing • Weekdays only except holidays)
PEPSI
ACCEL
SM BOWLING CENTER
See Posters for details.
Promo is not valid with other promo offers.

THE FUN PACK: (seated) Louie Arcangel with Thelma Gana; (standing) GJ Dy, Carol Mercado, Adolf Palacios, Maridel, Yoly Ayson and Rotary district governor-elect Jimmy Cura

NOTHING like Kamayan for excellent Filipino food. Enjoying their meal are Munti del Rosario, Marilou Romero, Jing Sarao, Marivic de los Reyes and Prim de Guzman; (standing) Kako Lacson, Maridel and Carol Mercado

She gives gifts on her birthday

LAWYER Candido Flor and wife Carmen

SOUTHERN gal Liela Salgado and Louie Arcangel

DAD AND HIS KIDS: Mega restaurateur Victor V. Villavicencio with twin daughters Mara and Cara and son Bokie

RAUL Garcia and Marie Sison Garcia

ROTARY past district governor Jun Tambunting and the celebrant's mother, Lita Baltazar

JANINE and Teddy Dario with Tweety de Leon-Gonzales

CESSIE Colayco and Sam Yen

CHEF Sau del Rosario and Martin Wisniewski of M Café

RIA Francisco, model Lyn Almoro and architect Gil Coscolluela

THE SUPER fun birthday bash thrown for everyone's *palangga* was exactly that. In full tidal-wave force, Makati Rotary past president and socialite **Maridel Villavicencio**'s famille, close pals and fellow Rotarians dashed to the popular Kamayan Restaurant on Pasay Road to be with her on her special day, *palanggas*.

The occasion gave the invitees a chance to see the results of the restaurant's face-lift and they approved what they saw.

For Maridel's fun night, Kamayan served its fresh, absolutely delectable and longtime Filipino favorites made from yummy secret recipes, that have made it the place to dine, Filipino style, *palanggas*.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

My pals couldn't get enough of the succulent *Lechon de Leche*, sizzling *Adobong Balut* and the *Inihaw na Maliputo*, a special fish found in Batangas; and the all-around top favorite, Chicken Binakol.

While enjoying our fab dinner, the RSVP Strings played timeless Broadway tunes which did not divert us from the task at hand—digging into our plates.

As I scanned the dining area, I saw that red was the color of the affair. After all, "red is the color of love and love flowed tonight for Maridel's party," said witty **Joy Buensalido**, who was probably in a romantic mood that night, dahlings.

Here, there and everywhere helping the celebrant entertain her invitees was gentleman for all seasons, her well-liked husband **Vic-Vic**, and their children **Veejay**; **Pia** and **Dwight**; **Mara**; **Cara**; **Bokie** and **Vicky**; and their pals.

Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation, which cares for street children, is one of the charitable organizations supported by Maridel, who has been involved in civic service for eons now, *palanggas*. So instead of gifts, Maridel asked friends to donate to the foundation.

Later in the evening, a video about street children was shown. At the end of the affair, Fr. **Rocky Evangelista**, head of the foundation, left with a smile on his face, natch.

"I am very happy," the birthday celebrant said. "This is not a grand celebration, just a simple one, yet it is very meaningful not just for me, but for the children of Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation as well." Well said, *palanggas*.

Here's wishing nothing but the best for a gal with a heart of gold. Cheers!

CK Eternity moment

Don't you just love spraying on a fresh scent, better known as eau de toilette? Well, I do so, without batting an eyelash, I dashed to the launching of the newest scent from Calvin Klein—CK Eternity Moment, at the place-to-be, the Muséum Café, in the posh Greenbelt 4, Makati.

It turned out that CK Eternity Moment was for you gals, but since *moi* was already there, well, why not stay on, *n'est-ce pas*? "Eternity Moment is a fragrance inspired by the exhilaration of falling in love, flushed with pleasure, filled with the thrill of promise and discovery."

Luxasia super dedicated general manager, cyber-smart **Mia Nolasco-Cuenca**, and product manager **Vicky Marchdesch** gave the welcome remarks. Also there were CK sales and marketing associate **Abigail Boey** of Unilever Cosmetics International, who jetted in just for this occasion; Luxasia bigwigs **Ann Wong Chuking**, **Mikka Genito**, **Carla Enage**, **Lee Roberto** and **April Marquez**, plus two bright stars in the horizon, young, talented stylists **Shahani Gania** and **Ana Kalaw**.

Before the invitees could bat an eyelash, we were completely immersed in a pink-bathed ambience that also featured a mini-video of insightful "Moments."

Clearly enjoying the whole scene were top women advisers in the spotlight, like the popular Mega magazine's excellent editor **Liza** with an "L" **Ilarde Cuenca**, beauty and skin expert **Kate Fernandez**, television personality **Tricia Chiongbian**, and entrepreneur **Anne Marie Saguil**.

Then, while enjoying tons of yummy finger-food and sipping wine, invitees got a sneak peek of CK Eternity Moment TV spot starring **Scarlet Johansson**, the gorgeous, hot cover girl next year of renowned magazines like Harper's Bazaar (January 2005), Esquire (February 2005), Teen Vogue, with **Topher Grace** (February 2005), and Hollywood (February 2005).

She will also be prominently featured in Vanity Fair's yearly "Best of Hollywood" issue (January 2005).

The TV spot also featured brilliant new British actor **Trent Ford**.

CK Eternity Moment is exclusively distributed in the country by Luxasia.

Scoop

That adorable Miss with the four B's and talented gourmet, brilliant **Stephanie Zubiri**, received a proposal of marriage from her steady, big love, handsome and *tres charmant* **Victor Delfour** of Toulouse, France, right after the New Year.

Victor is a business consultant residing in Paris, where he met the vivacious Stephanie, who has been studying in that city of romance for almost two years now.

Both are here in Cosmo Manille at present vacationing for the holidays with the Zubiri famille, dahlings.

THE ILONGGO CONNECTION: Chicki Locsin and the lady of the hour, Maridel Villavicencio, with Linda Oledan and Bibing Montelibano Villanueva

LET'S PARTY! MJ Madrid with Christopher Garcia, Maridel V., Dwight Lago, Samantha Bautista, Raul Bautista, and Diane Garcia

ATTRACTIVE and multitalented Stephanie Zubiri is now formally engaged to her French beau, Victor Delfour, of Toulouse, France.

CALVIN Klein Sales and Marketing associate Abigail Boey from Singapore, Luxasia brand manager Vicky Marchadesch and Luxasia general manager Mia Nolasco-Cuenca

Keep abreast of developments in wellness field

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

COPING with the business of daily living, it helps that there are health havens and beauty treatments to assist us manage our lifestyle better. Thus, we should keep abreast of changes in the wellness field.

Goodbye pain

Marking its 10th year in traditional and alternative healthcare, the Intercare Chiropractic Center opened its well-appointed spa-inspired clinic at the Unioil Building at the Madrigal Business Center, across Ayala Alabang Village.

Headed by the well-respected and well-liked Dr. Martin G. Camara, the center offers a variety of services and treatments for practically every ache and pain. It has put eight disciplines under one roof: chiropractic to correct dysfunctions in the body with a special focus on the spine/nervous system; physical therapy (for body strengthening); myotherapy (specialized massage for muscular problems using the latest gadgets); acupuncture to balance energy levels and flow in the body (the World Health Organization now recognizes acupuncture for the treatment of 44 health conditions like diabetes, stroke injuries, migraine, slip disc, etc.); Alexander Technique, a way of retraining the body to overcome bad habits like bad posture that leads to injury; yoga, a body-mind-spirit workout for unstressing and flexibility; STOTS Pilates, mat exercises to stabilize the back; rehab/sports medicine, conventional/medical approaches for rehabilitation.

A healthcare program can be designed for you according to your specific needs. Call 8094163.

Drink to your health

Once there was only tap water. Then, the public welcomed into their lives distilled, mineral, ionized, alkaline and purified water.

And now there is structured water. It is simply water structured to consist of smaller molecular clusters instead of the normal, larger clusters of water molecule.

The process involved is called nanotechnology, an advanced system of multiple purification that removes contaminants, maintains the ionic and trace minerals and energizes the water molecule to better penetrate cell membranes and maintain maximum hydration.

Structured water is oxygen-rich, is alkaline, and has the perfect pH level to match the pH level of the fluids in our bodies. Safe for infants and children, it is considered by some medical experts as best for convalescing patients to expedite recovery.

Satya's, a popular vegetarian restaurant in Xavierville, Loyola Heights owned by Dr. Omar Arabia, uses structured water. Call 4332222 or 09184806180.

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Scrub to the limit

A much in-demand treatment these days is a body scrub to end all scrubs. There are scrubs and there are scrubs. Since we know only too well that skin cells dry up every two weeks, the need for a thorough cleansing is utmost.

At Franck Provost Salon in Makati, therapeutic specialist Evelynne de Guzman, pampers regular clients with the one-hour Silk Scrub, which consists of Darphin exfoliating creams and oils from Paris designed to smoothen even hard-to-reach areas (where the sun doesn't shine!) followed by a series of deluxe showers from massage pressure to relaxing de-stress softness. By appointment only. Call 8953401.

The power of your aura

Time and again, it has been said no other wellness component can be more powerful than exercise. Through exercise, energy is expended by the body which is indestructible. That same force generates an inner strength or visceral radiance that emanates from the physical and yet spills over as one's aura or personal glow.

Call it vitality, confidence, boldness, strength—one's aura is the "seen-unseen."

In a bid to capture the brilliance of auras, which are directly influenced by your *chakras* and your moods—red (creativity)—sex, black (grounding)—root or base, blue (expression)—throat, yellow/orange (courage)—solar plexus, green/pink (love)—heart, purple (insights or energy centers)—third eye, white (wisdom/divinity)—crown or top of the head)—Nike designed highly wearable, durable and colorful fitness gear dubbed the Aura line.

Exercising can harness the power of colors. Because color can influence your mood, and your mood affects your auric color, adorning yourself in resplendent rainbow hues can only do you good.

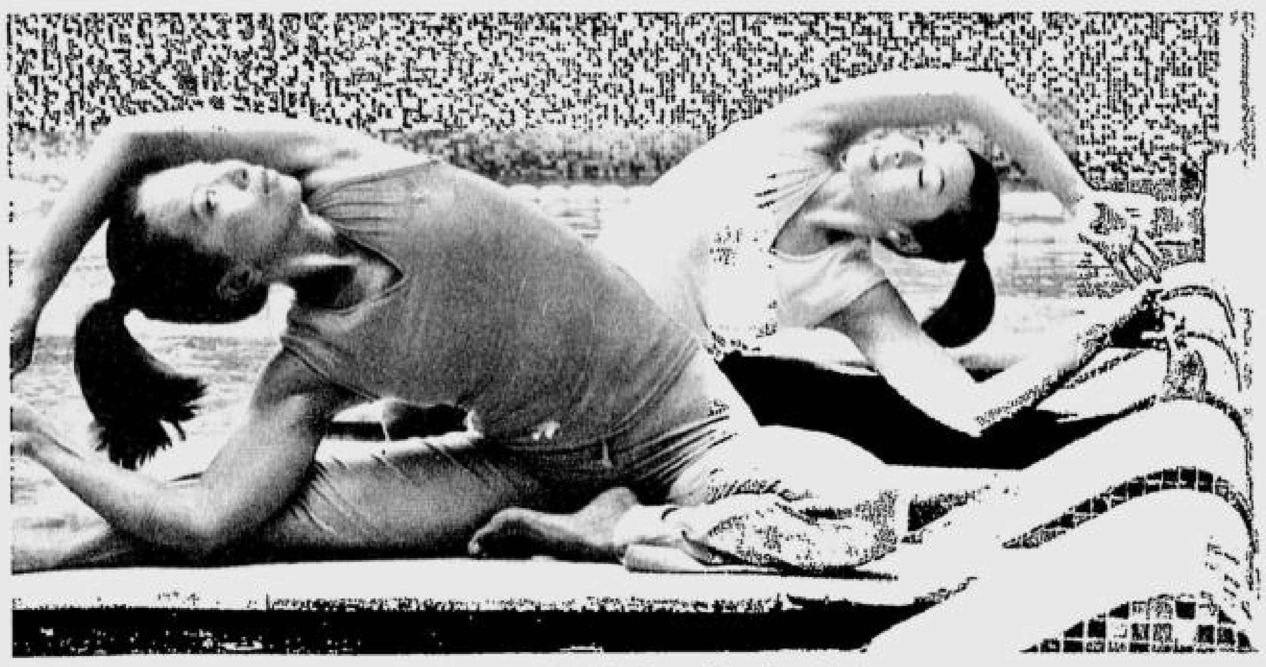
Organic to go

Now being planned due to popular demand, Mara Pardo de Tavera, the organic queen (she once owned the Source Restaurant), will soon be delivering healthy meals right to your dining table.

You will have a choice between seven-day and 14-day organic meals (from breakfast to dinner, as well as snacks). Mara expects that, within a week, customers will begin to see and feel the difference in their energy/vitality levels and sense of well-being.

The menu will include oriental and continental dishes. Organic food doesn't mean vegetarian but vegetarian can be organic. There are now organic eggs, chickens and fish, like *bangus*. Call 8109823.

Love and light!



ON BELLA: Deep V top, 7/8 bootcut leggings; **On Michelle:** Deep V top, bootleg long pants

BALLET wrap top, Lotus print top, bootleg long pants, Alycea

WASHED cotton cover-up, 7/8 bootcut leggings

Clothes specially designed for yoga

PUMA, together with international fashion icon Christy Turlington, launches its newest collection of performance yoga-wear for today's lifestyle.

Mahanuala is an acronym that represents Movement, Affords, Higher Aspirations.

Created under the direction of style icon and yoga practitioner Turlington, the collection is a range of apparel especially created for Asanas, the physical limb of yoga.

But the collection goes beyond yoga, addressing the need for clothes that allow freedom of movement in other mind-body disciplines like Pilates and tai-chi. Each garment is designed for comfort and flexibility.

Turlington says the line allows the person to feel as much herself as possible. Mahanuala enhances her sense of self.

The line uses soft functional fabrics and colors. It is balanced with Puma's distinctive, forward-thinking design for versatile, multi-functional clothes.

Turlington says the collection aims to meet the needs of women who do not feel comfortable in traditional active wear while promoting both traditional and non-traditional sports. The Mahanuala design not only follows function but also incorporates lifestyle, fashion and spirituality.

Whether one practices yoga or not, any woman will appreciate the comfort and ease of movement the collection offers.

Bela Lipat, who teaches both Sivananda Yoga and Ashtanga Yoga in her home in Makati, has tested the flexibility and other benefits of the new collection with one of her students.

Sivananda Yoga promotes correct breathing, *asanas* or posture, proper relaxation and diet and meditation while Ashtanga Yoga promotes applying locks or *chakra* points, proper breathing/movement system and *dristhi*, literally a "looking place" or center where one focuses to concentrate.

The Puma Mahanuala Collection is available in Puma stores at Glorietta-Ayala Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall-Ortigas, Festival Mall-Alabang, and Puma shop-in-shop areas in Rustan's-Makati, MIX boutiques in Greenbelt and Robinsons Galleria, and Planet Sports outlets in Glorietta and Power Plant Mall-Rockwell.

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

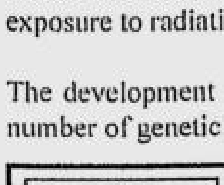
Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

What causes cancer?

Cancer is one of the most common causes of death. The cause of most cancers remains unknown. Mutations in DNA sequences leading to abnormalities of proto-oncogenes or deletion of tumor suppressor genes, or both have been linked to abnormal cellular growth which may lead to cancer formation. Oncogenes encode for cellular growth and proliferation while tumor suppressor genes govern regulatory processes which normally suppress cellular proliferation.

Mutations also may be due to environmental exposure, from pollution, chemical carcinogens like tobacco and cigarette smoking, diet, alcohol and other chemicals like benzene or asbestos. genetic susceptibility or hereditary predisposition, infectious agents or viruses like Human Papillomavirus, Epstein Barr virus, Hepatitis B and C virus, HIV, and Herpesvirus 8 and other factors like autoimmune suppression, previous history of chemotherapy or radiotherapy, and exposure to radiation or ultraviolet light.

The development of cancer is a complicated multi-step process that involves an increasing number of genetic mutations resulting in an invasive disease.



Oncologist **Dr. Monica Geraldine P. Jurilla** answers this week's question on cancer. Doktora Monica, our accredited provider at Makati Medical Center, specializes in Internal Medicine. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas in 1992 and in 1994 took residency training for her specialization at Makati Medical Center. She took her subspecialty residency for Medical Oncology at St. Luke's Medical Center in 1998. She is a Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and a Lifetime member to both the Makati Medical Society and the Philippine Medical Association. MEDICard members may visit her clinic for consultations at Room 226, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 AM to 12 noon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 TRUNKLINE: 887-2020 FAX NO.: 894-5720, 810-3856 TEXT: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or to 4627 (Smart and Talk N' Text) INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY SALES: 818-2181 CORPORATE SALES: 848-0452 848 6450 848 6451 E-MAIL: inquiry@medicardphils.com, feedback@medicardphils.com WEBSITE: www.medicardphils.com

PREVENT CANCER!
WITH FRESH JUICING
The US FDA recommends 5-10 servings of fruits and vegetables everyday. Consume 5 servings in just one glass.
MATSTONE
Multi-Purpose Juice Extractor
THE ONLY LOW-SPEED JUICER IN THE PHILIPPINES
☑ juices leafy and hard veggies with ease
☑ juices fruits
☑ extracts coconut milk
☑ more of the juice none of the pulp
☑ low RPM & no metal blades so nutrients are not lost
☑ 5 year warranty on motor & 2 years on parts
To know more about MATSTONE, visit: www.iajcorp.com
NOW AVAILABLE AT:
True Value Home Center Hotline (02) 887-1288
SHOEWISE All Branches
METRO MANILA: • IN-A-JIFFY ENT., Malate, 405-0178 or 86
• G2K CORP., Greenhills, 722-5527
PROVINCIAL: • BLUELITE Corp., Laguna, (049) 838-0960
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED
FOR DEALERSHIP & SUB DISTRIBUTORSHIP INQUIRIES CALL:
IAJ CORPORATION (632) 373-7396 to 97 • 373-7399 E-mail matstone@iajcorp.com

Strange out-of-body experiences

Part I

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

MY two-part article on sleep paralysis and astral projection (Dec. 14 and 21) elicited enthusiastic response from a number of readers. Apparently more people are experiencing this phenomenon than commonly believed.

Before they read my article, they did not know there was a name for it and that it happened to many other people.

The readers shared strange experiences with astral projection or out-of-body experience (OOBE), some of which I was hearing for the first time.

At the same time, a visiting Australian friend, who is a chiropractor by profession and a psychic researcher by avocation, gave me a copy of a report on what scientists think of OOBE. In effect, they are saying that it is nothing more than an "interference with the temporo-parietal function of the brain."

Let us consider first the fascinating stories and questions of readers and comment on the scientific theory later.

Three pyramids

Marissa Bernal Espinelli, an international trainor, was conducting a two-week course in Kenya in 1995. During a lunch break, she took a rest as she was very tired.

As soon as she lay down in bed with hands over her stomach, "I just felt I was floating, going through the walls of the hotel, actually seeing houses, stalls and market below. I felt the wind blowing on my hair, touching my face. I passed by huts, a market that sells baskets of different sizes and colors. Later I saw three pyramid-like structures below. Then I was reminded of my 1:30 p.m. session and was back in my bed. I still felt the wind on my face when I stood up. I felt refreshed though still a bit tired. I did not sleep because I was aware of everything that was happening. I do not know what caused that experience."

Five years later, she told a friend who had just attended a conference in Egypt about her experience and seeing three pyramids in what looked like a desert. She wondered why she saw three pyramids because she knew of only one.

Her friend told her there were indeed three pyramids in that place she visited in her astral body. It must have been the three pyramids of Giza that Marissa saw. Then the friend handed Marissa a gift—a replica of the three pyramids!

This is an interesting case of OOBE because the experience was later verified or validated in the waking state. In my advanced ESP and Higher Consciousness Seminar, I teach participants how to go out of their physical bodies consciously and to verify what they had seen in the astral plane when they wake up, among other things. They are also taught how to get back to their bodies safely.

New experiences

The following are strange OOBE experiences of readers for which I have no adequate explanation, because this is the first time I've heard of them.

The first is from Sharmaine Galve, a short story writer who said she was so relieved after reading my article because sleep paralysis had been happening to her for years and she was always afraid she would not wake up.

On three different occasions, her sleep paralysis involved "the sensation of a snake slithering itself through my butt." The first time it happened, she woke up suddenly and felt like something had indeed been inserted through her butt.

The second time she became afraid because she could, at the same time, hear women murmuring or chanting outside her door, although she knew no one was awake at that time. She said she wanted to blame it on her active imagination but it was too real to ignore.

The third time it happened was only weeks ago. "It did not feel like a snake this time," she said. She was between wakefulness and dreaming. "I heard a rattling, sort of scratching sound in my wooden shelves. And then, it suddenly started jumping up and down between the cracks of my butt. I was awake but not really awake."

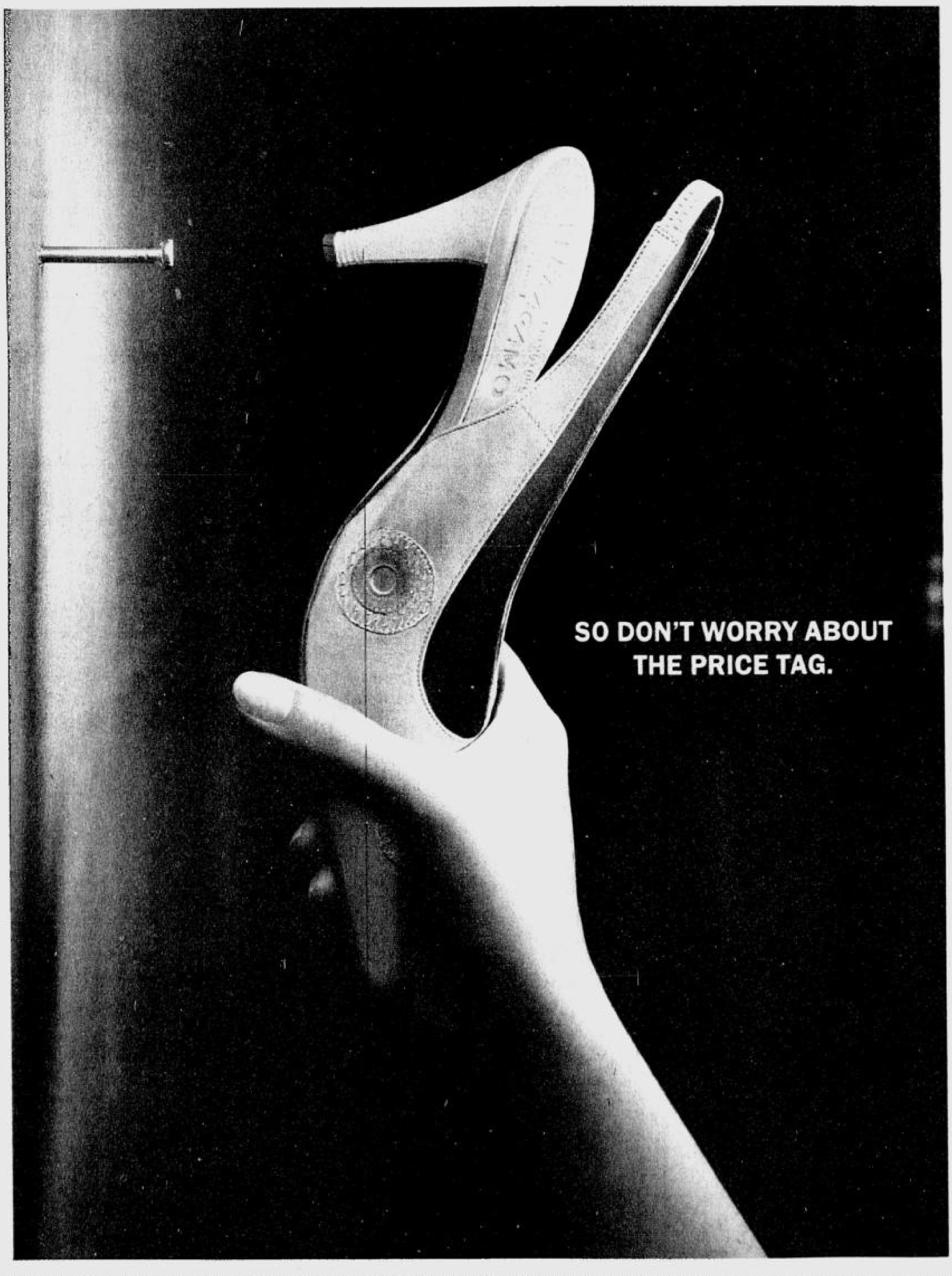
She asks: "Does this sensation of being snaked through and women murmuring have anything to do with astral projection? Are *bangungot* and sleep paralysis interrelated? Is it possible one may never wake up from sleep paralysis? Is there truth to the belief that messing with astral projection can cause a soul to get lost and never find its body? Is astral projection done every time we sleep? Or are there instances when we are just asleep?"

She ends her long letter with the following: "Thank you very much, sir, for being the perennial voice of reason and light in areas where most have looked away. There are so many things we cannot understand in this world, (most importantly) is how some institutions keep closing their doors to this matter. I have read your columns about how you are being harassed... and I want you to know there are so many of us... who are rooting for you..."

First I would like to thank you for your very kind words and for your confidence and trust in this writer. All I am really doing is sharing the fruits of my years of research with my readers and the public at large. I have no intention of converting any one to my way of thinking. (Continued next week)

E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco

YOU CAN WIN BACK YOUR 2004 PURCHASES* WITH VISA.



THE GREAT REBATE IS HERE!

There's never been a better time to shop. Use your Visa card as much as you can from October 24 to January 23, 2005. A P500 single-receipt transaction could make you one of six who will win back their 2004 Visa purchases or as much as P500,000.

To join, register through any of the following ways:

1. Visit www.hbimasin.com/visa
2. Call 637 2768 (M.M.) or toll-free 1 800 1888 2591 (Outside M.M.)
3. Text VISA followed by your name on card,issuing bank,last 4 digits of account number,amount of transaction,date of transaction,time of transaction on transaction slip (No space after each comma. Amounts P1000 and up should be written without a comma or a peso sign). Send to 2989 for Smart and Globe. Ex: VISA MENNIE 50,AIG,1234,1000.25,102404,1809

Bi-monthly draws start on November 11, 2004.

[illegible]

VISA
All it takes.

Baby Minder
Feeding Your Baby
Conquering Common Illnesses

Handy guides for parents

BABY Minder books are designed to provide helpful tips to parents expecting a new baby—whether for the first or nth time.

Parenthood is always filled with both excitement and anxiety.

Published by Mosman Communications, Baby Minder is a set of four booklets offering practical tips on rearing your child: Feeding Your Baby, Supporting Mental and Physical Growth, Grooming and Hygiene, and Conquering Common Illnesses.

It is now available in all National Bookstore branches, Goodwill Bookstore, Powerbooks, and Babyland stores at only P50 per booklet.

Estrogen-free contraceptive pill

ORGANON Philippines, Inc. recently launched the first and only estrogen-free ovulation inhibitor oral contraceptive pill which can be used during breastfeeding as it is proven to have no adverse effect on lactation and growth of newborns.

This pill, with its simple and continuous 28-tablet regimen, contains only one female hormone—the progestogen Desogestrel, 75mcg per tablet. This estrogen-free pill helps prevent pregnancy with 12 hours margin of safety for a missed pill. Mothers can start taking this pill as early as three to four weeks after giving birth.

Results from a study in Germany presented by Dr. Ulrich Karck show that estrogen-related side effects like breast tension, nausea, edema and headache improved or got resolved within three months of using the estrogen-free pill containing 75mcg of Desogestrel.

The new estrogen-free pill is now available in leading drugstores nationwide. Call 8177638.

ENTERTAINMENT Metro
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

14 minutes to fame

By Emmanuel O. Tabones
Contributor

THIS is not another fish story.

"Selling Songs in Leyte," a documentary on the dried fish vendors of Leyte who sell their wares by the rhythm of the songs they sing, won Best Foreign Short Documentary in the recently held New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

The 14-minute documentary was made by Eli Africa, 41, who lives in San Pablo, California. He flew to New York City for the screening of his film at the East Cinema Village theater in Manhattan during the festival which ran from Nov. 11 to 22 last year.

Africa returned to the Big Apple on Dec. 18, this time to receive his award for Best Foreign Short Documentary.

The festival (www.nyfilmvideo.com), the largest of its kind in the world, is held several times a year in different cities in the United States including New York, Miami and Los Angeles. It is covered by national and international media and popular among struggling but promising independent filmmakers.

Africa recalls his triumphant trip to New York.

"I haven't quite recovered from the shock," he says. "So much has happened in such a short time. My family, especially my wife, is very excited. She and my daughter have been my source of inspiration. In fact, my film is dedicated to both of them."

Africa has strong family and emotional ties to Leyte, specifically Northern Leyte. His mother was born in the town of Alang-Alang, and his wife comes from Tacloban City, the provincial capital. Their family still owns a house in Tacloban.

He graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communication from the University of the Philippines. The following year, he moved to California and worked as a graphic designer and visual artist.

He returned to the Philippines and taught at the UP College of Fine Arts from 1998-2004. He shared with his students, not only his knowledge of art, but also his passion for photography. He even purchased a video camera and used it as an effective teaching tool in class.

By accident

Africa started his film project in 2001.

"The idea for the video came by accident," he recalls. "A few years ago, I heard about these vendors from Leyte who sold dried fish by singing to their customers.

I was intrigued. I asked a niece to investigate for me."

With information from his niece, he flew to Tacloban, visiting towns like Palo, Tanauan and Carigara during ta'bo or market day, filming and interviewing the singing vendors.

He learned that the dried fish vendors of Leyte sang because it helped them keep track of how many fish they had sold. They also claimed their singing attracted customers.

Little is known about how and when the tradition started. Most of the townspeople in Northern Leyte are not even aware of the dried fish vendors who sing.

Africa makes a guess: "It could be related to the rich musical heritage of the Leyte/Samar region."

With more vendors selling fish and less of them singing, the dried fish vendor of Leyte who sang to sell their wares was a dying breed. Africa decided to document the custom before it completely vanished.

He made several trips to Tacloban and shot seven hours of raw footage. He returned to California and started editing. He completed his work in 2003.

Positive response

Africa showed his 14-minute documentary to family and friends and was surprised by the positive response, particularly from non-Filipinos.

Encouraged by the feedback, he submitted his film to the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

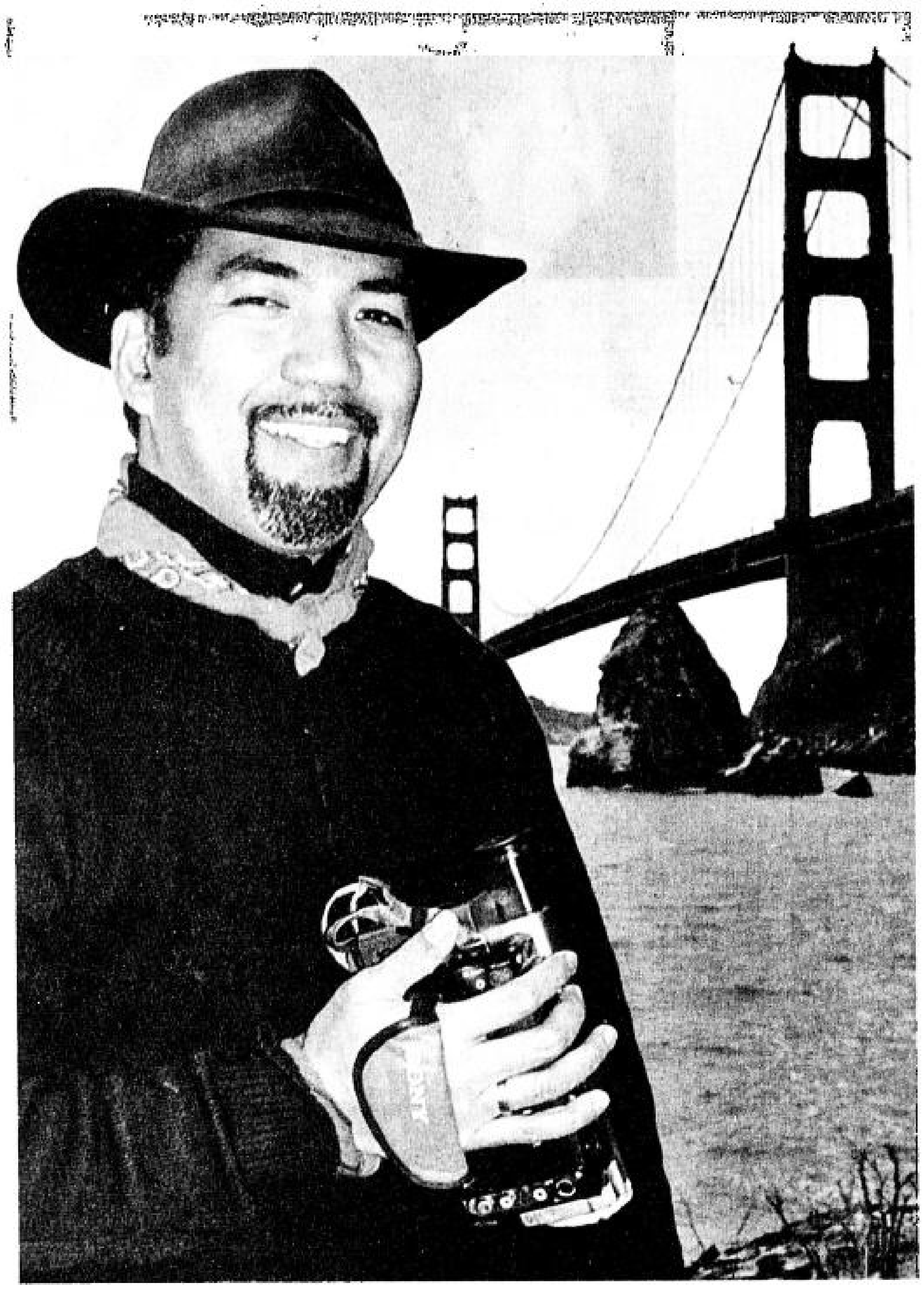
It was accepted by the committee, screened at the festival and the rest, as they say, is another entry in Philippine film history.

Ever upbeat, Africa shares his plans for the future.

"I want to make films that capture the Filipino experience and culture," he says. "I already have a few ideas. I am hoping that all this exposure and publicity will give me the opportunity to collaborate with other people in the industry."

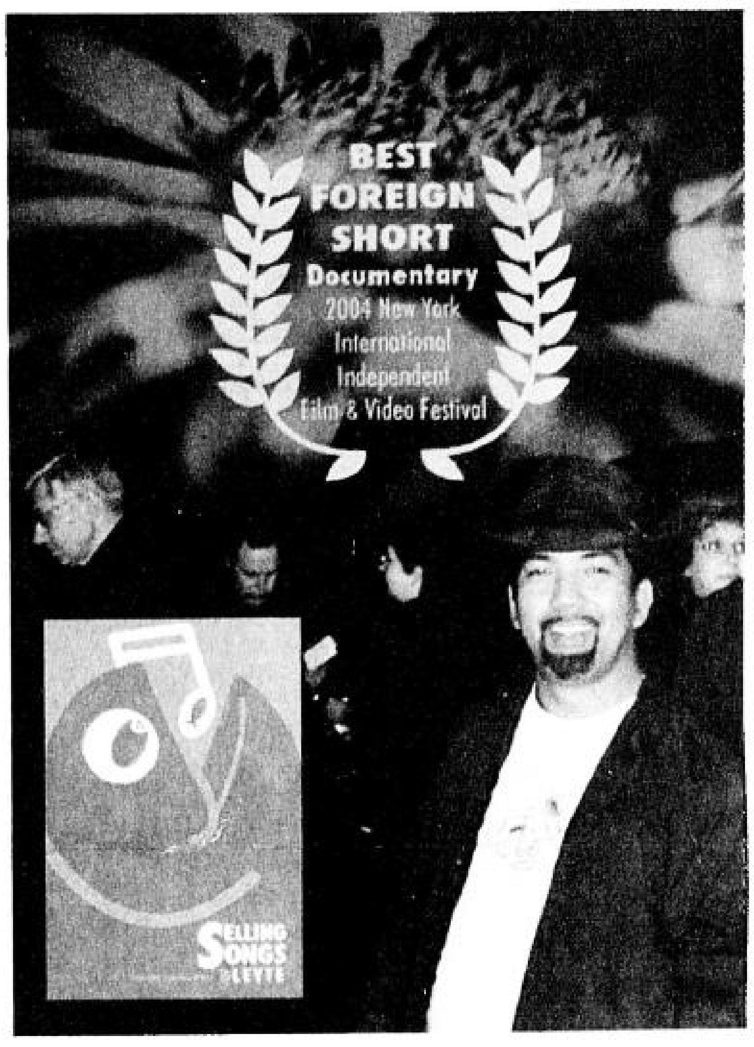
"Selling Songs in Leyte" will be screened at the San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival.

Eli Africa can be reached at eliafrica@mac.com. His website is http://homepage.mac.com/eliafrica/



ELI AFRICA, Fil-Am filmmaker tells the story of singing fish vendors in his documentary, "Selling Songs in Leyte," which won in the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

SELLING
SONGS
LEYTE



VICTORIOUS at the Dec. 18 awards night

NEW YORK
INTERNATIONAL
INDEPENDENT
FILM
AND
VIDEO
FESTIVAL

AFRICA'S WIFE Tina and daughter Alika

A SCENE from the winning work

Just a cacophony of cheap scares

NEW YORK—White noise is intended to help you fall asleep. "White Noise" would never let you do that, though.

It's far too interested in a cacophony of cheap scares: otherworldly screeches, deafening bursts from the radio and a nearly nonstop, buzzing din of television snow.

The title sequence, a harbinger of things to come, is one of those seizure-inducing, don't-adjust-your-TV-set montages of blips and blasts and zig-zaggy lines, possibly in preparation for the movie's arrival on cable, which should be happening right ... about ... now.

Michael Keaton stars as the recipient of these supernatural sounds after his wife, Anna (Chandra West)—who has to be the hottest internationally renowned best-selling author, like, ever—dies in a mysterious accident.

Keaton's character, architect Jonathan Rivers, had just learned that Anna was pregnant, and the couple already shared a fabulously comfortable waterfront existence with their young son.

Then Anna disappears and is replaced by sudden sounds, like the piercing ring of a cell phone and an indecipherable answering machine message. Soon afterward a portly man named Raymond (Ian McNeice) shows up at Jonathan's office and insists that Anna has been trying to communicate with him through the television.

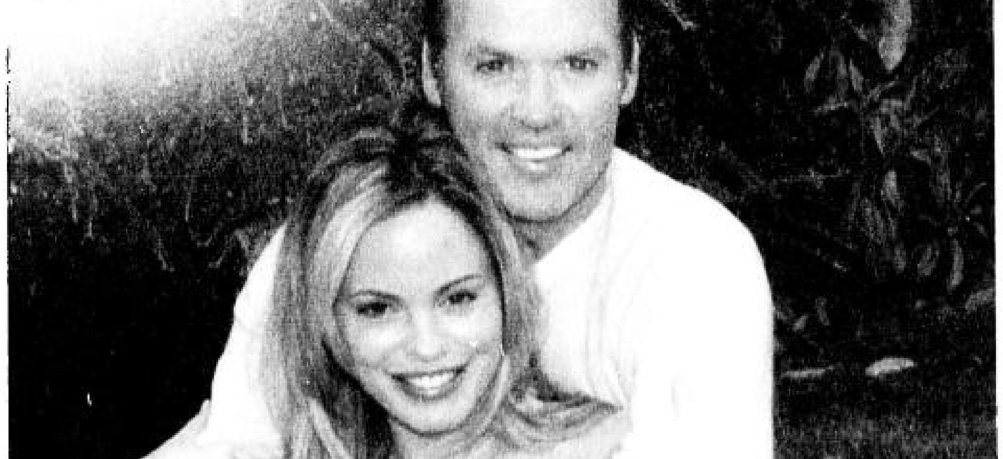
Great question

Jonathan is naturally skeptical. His wife was a writer, not a broadcaster. How did she learn to master the airwaves from the great beyond? (And if she really wanted to be heard clearly, couldn't she have reached out using high-definition TV?)

That's a totally great question, one that the film's production notes try to answer in tremendous detail. Supposedly this electronic voice phenomena (or EVP) is a real thing that has inspired websites and organizations worldwide. You will be forgiven, however, if not outright applauded, for thinking this is nonsense.

After hearing Anna's voice at Raymond's audiovisual tech-geek lab, though, Jonathan not only becomes

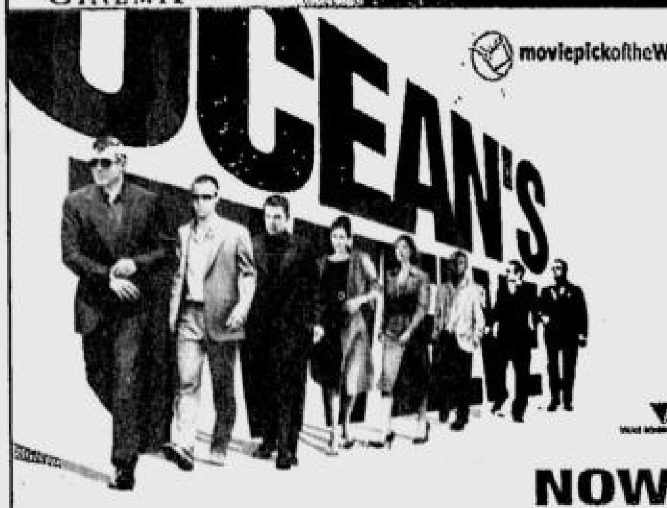
JUST/2



MICHAEL KEATON and Chandra West as incredibly gifted couple

SM CINEMA movietime

moviepickoftheWeek



GEORGE CLOONEY
BRAD PITT
MATT DAMON
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE
BERNIE MAC
and JULIA ROBERTS

TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
OCEAN'S TWELVE

NOW SHOWING

OPENS THIS WEEK

BLADE TRINITY
MTRCB RATING: R13

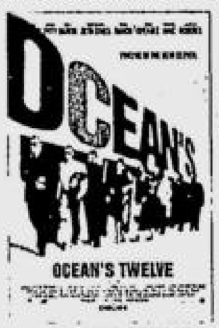
For years, Blade has fought against the vampires in the cover of night, with the world above unaware of the brutal ongoing war. But now, after falling into the crosshairs of the FBI, he is forced out into the daylight where he is driven to join forces with a clan of human vampire hunters he never knew existed - The Nightstalkers. Together with Abigail (Jessica Biel) and Hannibal (Ryan Reynolds), two deftly trained Nightstalkers, Blade follows a trail of blood to an ancient creature that is hunting him...the original vampire, Dracula.

Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Fairview • North Edsa • Manila • Sta. Mesa • Southmall Tutuban • Bicutan • Sucat

KUNG FU HUSTLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

A hapless wanna be gangster, Sing, must overcome his inability to wield a knife and demonstrate his mettle in order to become a member of the notorious Axe Gang. After several encounters with thugs and a fearsome adversary known as the Beast, Sing overcomes his inadequacy and realizes he is the greatest kung fu master of them all, destined to protect the sacred street.

Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Fairview North Edsa Manila • Sta. Mesa Southmall • Tutuban • Bicutan Sucat



OCEAN'S TWELVE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

Daniel Ocean recruits one more team member so he can pull off three major European heists in this sequel to Ocean's 11. It's three years later and Terry Benedict wants his money back. While Ocean and his team are spread out all over the U.S., Benedict tracks down every single one of them. Now, Ocean's Eleven is back together and they need to pay Benedict back PLUS interest within two weeks. The team travels to Amsterdam to start a new heist.

Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Fairview • North Edsa Manila • Sta. Mesa • Southmall

NOW SHOWING

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 SIGAW
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 MANO PO 3
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 BLADE TRINITY
11 LASTIKMAN
12 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city fairview
1 LASTIKMAN
2 SIGAW
3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 ENTENG KABISOTE
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE
9 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
10 AISHITE IMASU 1941
11 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
12 MANO PO 3

sm city manila
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 AISHITE IMASU 1941
8 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 SIGAW
11 LASTIKMAN
12 MANO PO 3

sm city sta. mesa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 MANO PO 3
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
7 LASTIKMAN
8 SIGAW
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city southmall
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 SIGAW
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
9 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
10 MANO PO 3

sm city north edsa
1 SIGAW
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 MANO PO 3
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm cinema tutuban
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm supercenter sucat
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city bicutan
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

Movies are subject to change without prior notice / For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL!
DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

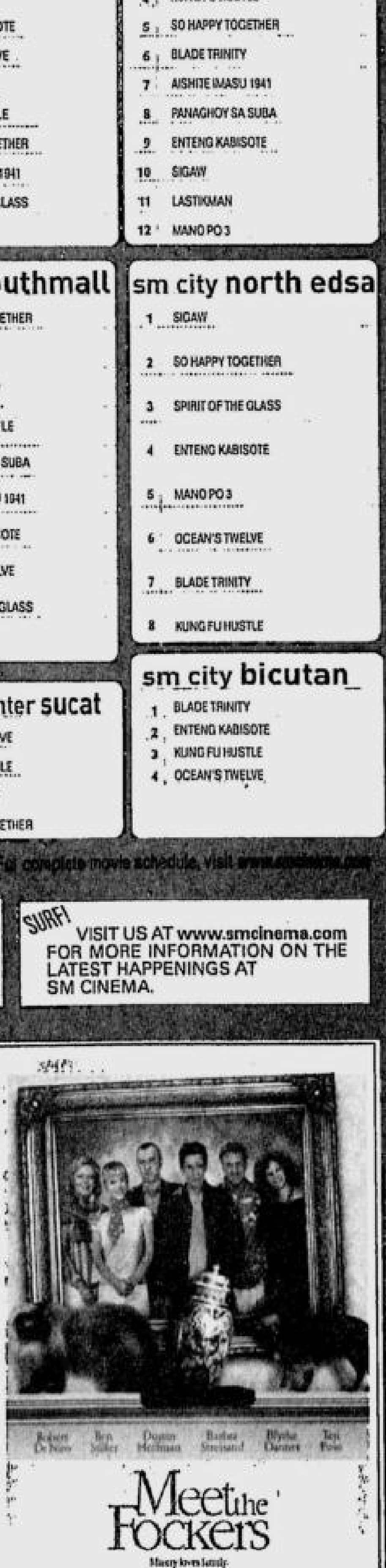
SURF!
VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

Red Carpet PREMIERE
January 17
SM MEGAMALL
Cinema 1 • 7:30pm
MTRCB Rating PG13

Tune in to 90.7 LOVE RADIO for a chance to win free invites!

BRING the whole family!

First 3 couples who could bring their in-laws on January 17 will win free tickets to the Red Carpet Premiere of Meet The Fockers. Just bring your marriage contract and a valid ID.



REGULAR SHOWING STARTS JANUARY 19

SHOW STOPPER

SCENES FROM A PREMIERE
Australian actress Cate Blanchett (right) arrives for the German premiere of "The Aviator" in Berlin on Friday. US actor Leonardo DiCaprio poses for fans outside the theater before the screening. The movie is a contender for major industry awards in America.

Just a cacophony of cheap scares

From page 1

a believer, he becomes obsessed. He sits around the house all day in a robe, like Keaton's "Mr. Mom" character, recording hours of TV snow. Ultimately he gets that crazed look in his eyes, like the one Keaton used to such great comic effect in "Beetlejuice," only here he's unintentionally funny.

And for some strange reason, the script from Niall Johnson has Jonathan sending his son away to live with other grown-ups in order to spend more time sitting in front of the television. Shouldn't they, um, be together to comfort each other after experiencing the hugely traumatic event of Anna's death?

Doom and gloom

The kid probably would have been bored, anyway. "White Noise" is as tedious and repetitive as it sounds. Every once in a while, though, three shadowy figures show up on the screen—sort of a troika of doom and gloom—with cryptically menacing messages which invariably are followed by someone's death.

In his muddled quest to play superhero, Jonathan tries to save these people from the evildoers' wrath (including a new friend, played by Deborah Kara Unger, who also hears dead people), which leads him to such contrived scary places as a deserted road in the middle of the night and an abandoned warehouse in the pouring rain. He's Batman—again— only without the cape and the cool car.

Director Geoffrey Sax seems to want to embrace the romantic idea of reaching out to a long-lost loved one—who wouldn't want to talk to a deceased parent or spouse one last time?—yet he can't seem to resist going for the easy, gimmicky scares.

Besides, we've already seen this paranormal territory covered more effectively in the unusually successful American remake of "The Ring" and, long before that, in the truly scary "Poltergeist." AP

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) MANO PO 3 GP
1 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13
2 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY R13
4 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SIGAW
2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 ENTENG KABISOTE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) AFTER THE SUNSET
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
4 (DTS) PANAGHOY SA SUBA

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) BLADE TRINITY
2 (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE
6 GOLD (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) HAPPY TOGETHER
8 (REAL) SIGAW
9 (REAL) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
10 (REAL) MANO PO-3

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 ENTENG KABISOTE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SIGAW
3 MANO PO -3
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2 SIGAW

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) BLADE III
2 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
1 (Dolby) OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 (SDDS) BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (Dolby) SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 (Dolby) ENTENG KABISOTE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BLADE TRINITY
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 HAPPY TOGETHER
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Now record producer says he shot woman

PHIL SPECTOR

'I think I killed somebody'

LOS ANGELES—Rock producer Phil Spector told police that he accidentally shot dead B-movie actress Lana Clarkson, an account that contradicts his later claim that she committed suicide, grand jury transcripts show.

Five volumes of grand jury testimony were released late Thursday after the Los Angeles Times and other news organizations mounted a successful legal challenge against defense efforts to keep them sealed.

According to the transcripts, Beatrice Rodriguez, a police officer dispatched to Spector's Los Angeles mansion said that when she arrived, the 64-year-old music producer said: "... I didn't mean to shoot her. It was an accident."

Spector's driver, Adriano De Souza, told the grand jury that about three minutes after he heard a shot inside the house and called police, Spector came out holding a gun and told him, "I think I killed somebody."

He said that when asked for more details, Spector shrugged his shoulders and did not say anything.

Three threats

Three women also testified that in various circumstances, ranging from a house party to a visit to his home, Spector had threatened them with a gun.

Spector's attorney, Bruce Cutler, accused prosecutors in a statement of "tainting" Spector's trial by supporting the release of the transcripts and called Rodriguez' testimony false.

"Not surprisingly, her tape recorder failed to capture this so-called confession," Cutler said. "Why? Because the statement was never made and therefore it was never recanted."

Cutler also attacked De Souza's testimony, saying: "He was in this country illegally, is not facile with the English language and is being helped, protected and secreted by the DA's office (in exchange) for his testimony."

Spector, famed for his "Wall of Sound" productions and work with the Beatles, is charged with murdering Clarkson on Feb. 3, 2003 after picking her up at the Los Angeles nightclub where she worked as a hostess.

Now free on $1 million bail, he faces life in prison if convicted.

Spector claimed in an Esquire magazine interview that Clarkson, 40, shot herself. The actress died of a single bullet wound to her head. *Reuters*

Araneta Center
LEISURE GUIDE

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ADMISSION: P99 (Free Seating) P120 (Reserved Seats)
THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST CINEMA WITH THE WIDEST SCREEN / MAGNIFICENT LOBBY SKYLIGHT ACCENTED BY A 360-DEGREE STYLIZED MODERN MURAL
Gateway CiNePLEx*10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
NOW SHOWING
OCEAN'S TWELVE
12:45 1:15 3:35 4:05 6:25 6:55 9:15 9:45
BLADE : TRINITY
12:05 12:35 2:25 2:55 4:45 5:15 7:05 7:35 9:25
KUNG FU HUSTLE
12:50 1:20 3:00 3:30 5:10 5:40 7:20 7:50 9:30
ENTENG KABISOTE
1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05
MANO PO 3
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	Dolby	OCEAN'S TWELVE 12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30
2	SDDS	BLADE: TRINITY 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
3	dts	KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
4	Dolby	SO HAPPY TOGETHER 11:20 1:30 3:40 5:50 8:00
5	Dolby	ENTENG KABISOTE 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

ARANETA COLISEUM

Jan. 12	PBA ALL FILIPINO CUP BASKETBALL GAMES
Jan. 14	
Jan. 16	
Jan. 19	
Jan. 29	Martin Nievera & Patti Austin Concert

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 4 PM to 10 PM
Sunday & Holiday 2 PM to 10 PM

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 1:20,3:50,6:20,8:50	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 11:40,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40	BLADE 3: TRINITY R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:20
KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	SO HAPPY TOGETHER PG13 12:40,5:20,10:00 MANO PO 3 GP 3:00,7:40	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Kung Fu Hustle	1 Happy Together	1 Around the World in 80 days
4 Blade 3	2 Nagdadalaga	2 Sigaw
5 Oceans 12	3 Kung Fu Hustle	
	4 Enteng Kabisote	
	5 Blade 3	
	6 Oceans 12	

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	BLADE III 10:40, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2	OCEAN'S 12 11:10, 2:05, 5:05 8:05, 11:05 PG-13
3	KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:00, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
4	OCEAN'S 12 11:15, 2:40, 5:25 8:10, 10:50 PG-13

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
PG13
CINEMA 2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM JANUARY 7,2005 GARY V. - 'WAVE OF HOPE' 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
① OCEAN'S TWELVE
FS 1PM, 4PM, 7PM
LMF 10 00PM (PG-13)
③ BLADE TRINITY
FS 12PM, 2 30PM, 5PM, 7.30PM
LMF 10 00PM (R-13)
② KUNG FU HUSTLE
FS 12 20PM, 2 45PM, 5 10PM
7 35PM, LMF 10.00PM (PG-13)
④ OCEAN'S TWELVE
FS 12 30PM, 3 30PM, 6 30PM
LMF 9 30PM (PG-13)
PREMIERE THEATRE Special MMFF Promo Price P236 (includes unlimited popcorn and drinks)
MANO PO 3
11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM,, 7:25PM, 10PM
(GP)
Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 3 - P150
For inquiries, call 633-2227
or 633-7851 local 171.
Shangri-La Plaza

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA	632-9115/16
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE • THX 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:10 1:45 4:20 6:55 9:30
2 BLADE TRINITY 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	7 PANAGHOY SA SUBA 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00	8 MANO PO 3 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	9 SIGAW 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 11:40 1:55 4:10 6:25 9:40

ERMITA	538-7809 to 12
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	11:10 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:15 10:00	5 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:15 1:50 4:25 7:00 9:40
3 BLADE TRINITY 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 RESERVE
4 SIGAW 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	7 KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

METRO EAST	682-8193/99 • 682-8280
1 MANO PO 3 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:30	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE 12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05 10:30
3 SIGAW 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:30	7 BLADE TRINITY 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	8 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30 10:30

NOVALICHES	935-3229/31
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
2 MANO PO 3 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	6 BLADE TRINITY 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 10:40 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:25	7 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:15 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:25
4 SIGAW 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	8 AISHITE IMASU 11:00 1:00 3:00

CHECK THIS OUT ►►
Exclusive SCREENING
TWO BROTHERS

A NEW FAMILY ADVENTURE FILM
TWO BROTHERS

January 12,2004
Robinsons Movieworld
METRO EAST
MTRCB Rating:G

PIONEER	687-5378
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE 10:40 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:00	3 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:25 1:00 3:35 6:10 8:45
2 BLADE TRINITY 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50

Citisquare MALABON	288-0085 / 2575
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30	3 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
2 MANO PO 3 10:30 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30	4 SIGAW 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

CAINTA	[illegible]
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE 12:20 3:00 5:40 8:20	3 KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:55 1:25 3:55 6:25 8:55
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20	4 BLADE TRINITY 10:35 1:10 3:45 6:20 8:55

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Elvis' German 'hometown' marks his 70th birthday

BAD NAUHEIM—German Elvis Presley fans, clad in jean jackets, hats and T-shirts bearing the name of The King, flocked to this spa town to celebrate his 70th birthday with a series of shows and events.

Organized by local authorities and the local Elvis Presley Association, the events marking his birthday on Saturday included a Las Vegas show, a gospel concert and walking tours of places the singer lived in from October 1958 through February 1960 while stationed here as a soldier—his only residence outside the United States.

"His voice was magic: there was so much soul, so much heart in it," said Isolde Sueltemeyer, a classical musician from Cologne.

Sueltemeyer, now retired, was lucky enough to secure a room Friday in the art deco Grunewald Hotel where Presley lived upon arriving in Germany. Complaints from other residents that his rehearsing was disruptive forced him eventually to find his own house.

She was one of several fans who gathered Friday to walk in the footsteps of the man many Germans credit with bringing rock n' roll to Europe.

More, more

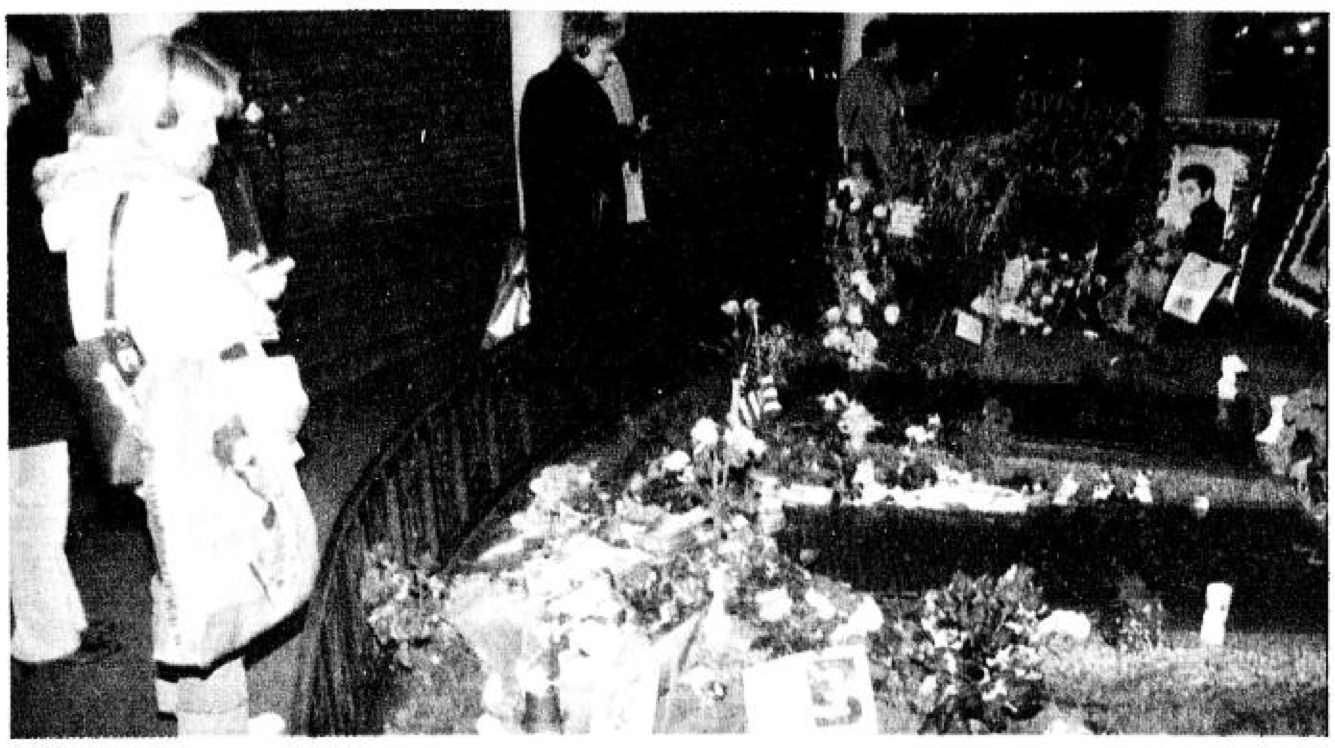
An exhibit at Germany's national museum, Haus der Geschichte, or History House, in the former West German capital of Bonn also commemorates the singer's unique role in the history of music here.

Included in the exhibit, which runs until Feb. 27, are countless artifacts gathered by Claus-Kurt Ilge, including a tape recorder and dozens of albums that Presley gave to him before returning to the United States.

Ilge has been instrumental in raising Bad Nauheim's profile as "Germany's home of Elvis," but argues the city could still do more. For years, he says, he has crusaded to have the street in front of the Grunewald Hotel renamed in honor of Presley, but local politicians have been reluctant to do so.

Ulrich Schlichthaerle, head of the city's tourism office, says officials are only now realizing their city's connection to The King can raise its profile.

"Out of more than 100 spa towns in Germany, we are the only one that can claim a 20th-century artist resided here," Schlichthaerle said. "Many of them have connections to Mozart, Beethoven or Brahms, but only we have Elvis." *AP*



AT GRACELAND in Memphis, Debra Harris of Dallas visits famous gravesite

Events include walking tours of places the singer lived in from 1958 to 1960 while stationed here as a soldier.

EUGENE and Sybil Vessels, also from Dallas, look over Elvis' many gold records in Graceland's racquetball court. Visitors were taken on a rare evening tour the night before The King's birthday.

How to celebrate the birth of twins

NEW YORK—Julia Roberts has celebrated the arrival of her twins by buying 32 acres (13 hectares) of prime New Mexico property from US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, People magazine said.

Roberts has been buying land from neighbors since first becoming a part-time resident of Taos, New Mexico in 1995. The new land joins 80 acres (32 hectares) she already owns, the magazine said on its website.

Roberts and husband Danny Moder spent Christmas and the New Year in Taos with their newborns, Hazel Patricia and Phinnaeus Walter.

People reported that land in the area sells for between 110,000 and 125,000 dollars an acre, according to a Taos real estate agent, Peter Lora, quoted by People.

When Roberts and Moder married in July 2002, Rumsfeld, a hardline Republican, told People he had visited the movie star. According to the county clerk's office, Roberts and Moder are both registered to vote as Democrats, according to the magazine. *AFP*

JULIA ROBERTS and husband Danny Moder in a paparazzi shot before her delivery

Closed courtroom requested for Michael Jackson pretrial

SANTA MARIA—Adding to the extraordinary level of secrecy in Michael Jackson's child-molestation case, the singer's lawyers asked a judge to close the courtroom for all pretrial hearings on what evidence will be allowed at his trial.

Jackson's attorneys asked Friday that all pretrial hearings be held in the judge's chambers—including proceedings on the prosecution's request to present evidence that Jackson allegedly committed sex crimes over the years that went uncharged.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Jan. 31.

Jackson's attorneys argued that hearing such matters in open court could prejudice the jury pool by allowing the prosecution to introduce "inflammatory and unfounded testimony regarding alleged prior sexual offenses."

Unprecedented coverage

"The media coverage of this case is unprecedented, and it is certain that anything said in open court will be broadcast to any of the already summoned potential jurors," the lawyers wrote.

Theodore Boutrous, who represents a coalition of media organizations including The Associated Press, said he would oppose the request by Jackson's lawyers.

"It's really disturbing that they're seeking to close off all the proceedings this close to trial," he said. "The Jackson forces have sought to litigate this trial in secrecy."

"The standards for closing hearings are extremely high, and they clearly haven't met it," Boutrous said.

Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville could rule on the defense request at the hearing set for tomorrow.

Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson called the motion "unbelievable."

"In no other case can I imagine this happening," she said. "There is a right of access to the courts even for pretrial hearings. As far as I know there is no celebrity exception to that rule."

The 46-year-old entertainer has pleaded not guilty to charges of molesting a boy, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to the alleged victim at his Neverland ranch in Santa Barbara County.

Sealed documents

The trial has been kept under a shroud of secrecy by Melville. The judge has issued a gag order that bars either side from speaking about the case publicly and has sealed virtually all documents, including some 14,000 pages of evidence filed by Santa Barbara County prosecutors.

The few that later have been released have been heavily censored. Even the indictment that charged Jackson was released heavily blacked out, removing most details of Jackson's alleged crimes and blotting out the names of his alleged co-conspirators.

Levenson said the defense was probably emboldened to make the unusual motion because Melville has been so stringent in imposing secrecy.

"They seem to think they've got a court who will take every step to ensure secrecy," she said. "Secrecy has been the rule, not the exception. It is turning the First Amendment on its head."

Boutrous has repeatedly filed motions to unseal documents and appeals are pending. "The Supreme Court has said over and over again that openness of the criminal-justice system is the best way to ensure fairness," Boutrous said. *AP*

H is where the heart is

What are the chips you grew up with – but never outgrew?

What's the world's safest pain reliever?

Who is July?

Without really thinking, you know the answers. Because one ad agency has helped ingrain these names, keeping the images alive in your mind long after the ads came out.

This agency is **Harrison Communications.**

Admittedly, Harrison itself may not be top of mind. But its creations certainly have made their way into your life, your lingo…they're insidious, inescapable.

Take your childhood snacks: Jack 'n Jill Chippy, Chiz Curls, Pretzels, Nips, etc. Notice how these brands have managed to grow up with you, so you've never really let go? That's because their ads always speak to you somehow. The popular Chippy Barkada TV ads, for example, mirror what it's like for a guy to be "busted" by a girl… what groupmates go through for a term paper…and simply just how much fun it is to watch horror movies with your best buds. These are your stories, too…and that's why these brands have become your brands as well. Keeping Universal Robina Corporation, maker of your favorite snacks and Harrison's client, in its rightful place as leader of the snack foods category.

And what about the world's safest pain reliever? Of course, it can only be Biogesic. The one you, your mom and your friends immediately think of when you feel a headache or fever coming on. Owned by United Laboratories, Biogesic has other sister brands that enjoy just as much popularity – Enervon, Tuseran, Neozep.

Certainly, these brands have been around for nearly forever. But Harrison's ads keep them fresh and foremost in your mind – while also protecting their market dominance.

Harrison's recent ads for Enervon, for example, visualize the lifestyle benefits of taking the multivitamin. A fire-eater wowing an audience, football fans screaming their hearts out at a game – these images capture how, with Enervon, you can "Live More."

In another ad, this time for Tuseran, Harrison departs from clinical pharma ads and goes into the action genre with three girls as brave as Charlie's Angels.

Of course, not only in big-budget TV ads does Harrison make its mark. In a simple print ad where an inverted Biogesic pack looks like a graduation cap, Harrison's headline can make you smile: Tapos na ang sakit ng ulo. Already a finalist for Ad of the Year in the Creative Guild Awards, this ad is predicted to go even further.

Finally, there is that guy, July. Created by Harrison for Globe Handyphone, he has risen from fiction to nationwide fame. Even in real life, fans prefer to call him July - despite his own very famous last name, Quizon. To teens everywhere, July IS Globe Handyphone. And every one of them wants to be with July, and be like July.

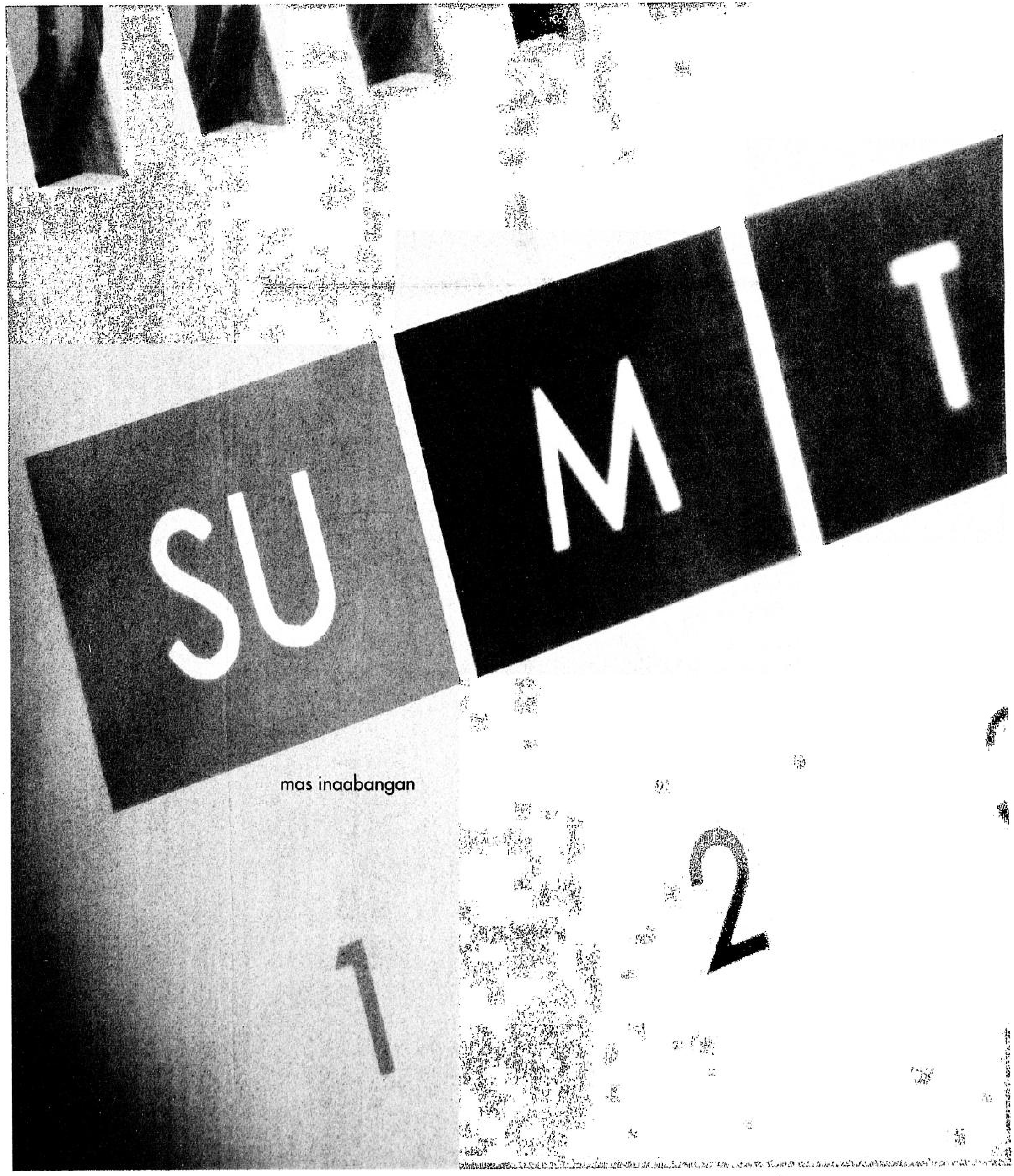
Of course, July isn't the only star Harrison has spotted. To this day, everyone recalls Donita in the Globe GenTxt commercials. Incidentally, Globe was first to engage Donita as endorser, just as she was starting what would be a fabulous career on MTV.

Even earlier, Harrison was first to emphasize texting in an ad: Globe Handyphone " Man and a Woman." Showing deaf mute lovers communicating through text, this emotional spot may well have started the texting mania. And then there's that unforgettable phrase which few understood, but a lot more kept repeating : "Diak maawatan" *(I don't understand)* from an ad for Globe and Touch Mobile's Autoload Max.

Still, more names got their breaks in Globe ads by Harrison: Geoff Eigenmann, who shared his sob story to the "Manong" tindero in an AutoLoad Max ad… Hero Angeles, who modeled for a poster, even before he joined showbiz…Paolo Bediones for a Globe Handyphone Caller ID commercial in 1996…

Clearly, Harrison has helped launched new names and new faces. While keeping those already established always in our minds and in our hearts.

Creating not only market leaders, but also icons of culture. Hindi lang nagpapauso, nakaukit pa sa puso



Harrison History

Only 8 years old and already so much to show for it. This is the life of Harrison. .

1996

HK McCann is born. Its first home: Dolmar Gold Tower in Palanca St. First clients: Isuzu, Pioneer Life Inc., Unilab (Tuseran, Enervon, Solmux) and Globe Handyphone.

Globe Handyphone "A Man & A Woman." Features deaf-mute lovers communicating through text. This wins HK its first international citation at the Cresta Awards and helps kick off the texting craze. Another landmark Globe ad, "Tycoon," brings together Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Ting Paterno, Arturo Luz and Patricia Licuanan in a casting coup.

HANDYPHONE
The New Generation Cellular

In Lift "Biker", a collaboration with mother agency McCann, HK takes creatives to the extreme: with a spot showing a guy bike down a hill and take off on a parachute. The spot is a TV AD of the Year finalist and Best in Cinematography in the Creative Guild of the Philippines, also bags Best in Editing at the Brisbane Creative Competition.

The little agency ends the year with billings of P295M

1997

ISUZU ad shows Edu Manzano driving like James Bond on his Isuzu Highlander. A ride of pure cinematic enjoyment, this spot runs over cliché car ads and drives Highlander into the thick of the AUV competition.

True partners and allies of Globe in its quest to establish Globe as the best mobile brand in the country. Committed to stand by our side 24x7 – you have helped us continue building our brand, ensuring that each marketing campaign adds further to its reputation of superior quality and customer relevance. May you continue to be as creative, principled and passionate about creating the best advertising for Globe, as you have always been. – GERRY ABLAZA, PRESIDENT & CEO, GLOBE TELECOM

1998

HK McCann becomes Harrison Communications.

Harrison acquires the baked goods and chocolates business of Universal Robina Corp., the nation's largest snack manufacturer.

1999

Bigger business, bigger space at First Life Building in Salcedo St.

Billings exceed the half billion mark.

2000

Pioneer "Subtitle" amuses viewers when a confusing insurance salesman magically transforms into an African tribesman. This spot is finalist for TV Ad of the Year at the Creative Guild.

2001

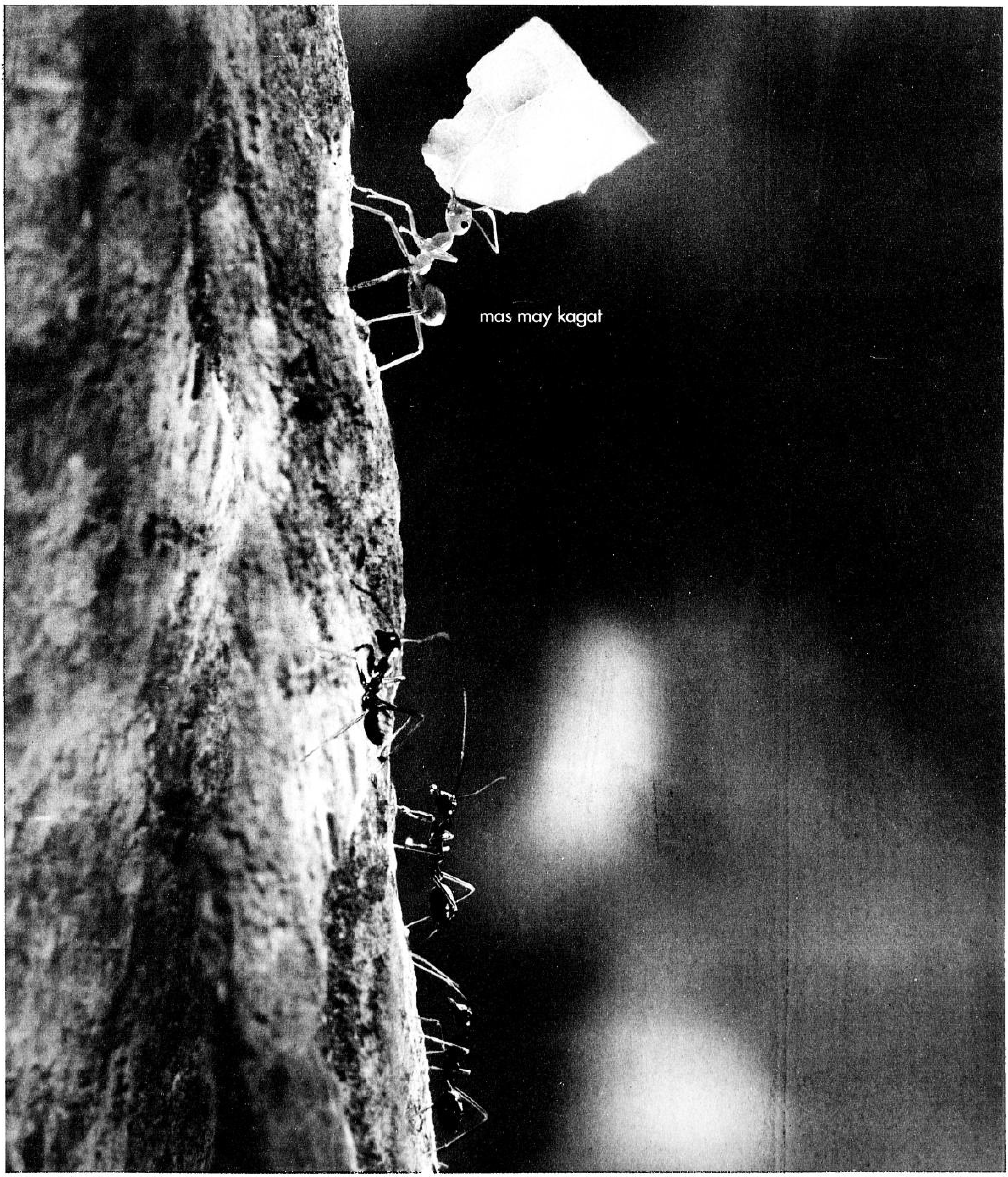
Pioneer "Subtitle" wins more: Finalist at the Midas Awards in New York and Platinum at the Philippine Advertising Congress.

Harrison goes over P1 billion in billings

The [Pioneer "Subtitle"] campaign was intended to tackle more than one issue - on one hand, to increase awareness for the company, which it did. On the other, to make a statement about the way life insurance can and should be handled. This was tackled by a campaign that showed what should not be. The execution and injection of humor made both the message and the company memorable. We got phone calls and reactions from all sorts of people - children, senior citizens, people interested in our products and even competitors - always with a grin on their faces. – LORENZO CHAN, PRESIDENT & CEO, PIONEER LIFE INC.

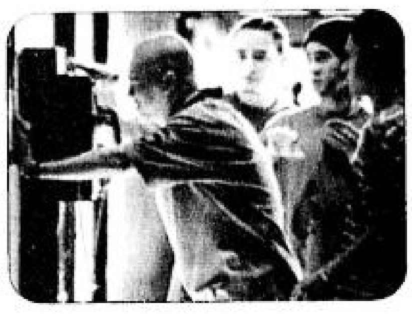
2002

Globe "Punk" shows how texting bridges the generation gap, when Katrina makes mom see she isn't really a rebel - with a simple text, "Ingat po."



Throughout the years, Harrison has not just been a business partner of URC, but an Agency with an interesting mix of the "communications" savvy and sophistication of a multi-national, without neglecting the down-home goodness of the Pinoy...just like our own products (you're like a bag of Chippy or a bar of Cloud 9!). Seriously, I believe the discipline of hard work that leads to great insights and fabulous creatives (that are on strat, by-the-way) are the "deadly" combination that make Harrison one of the best Agencies in the country today. More than anything, I really want to say Harrison has depth, a "commodity" that has become quite difficult to come by in recent years – PAT GO, CORP. MARKETING SERVICES & ADVERTISING DIRECTOR, URC

Chippy's still No. 1, in part due to its Barkada TV ad , where teen guys take comfort in the snack after one screams "busted ako!"



2003

Moving up: Harrison transfers to the 34F of LKG Tower in Ayala Avenue.

In the Globe Autoload MAX ad, a backpacker finds himself lost in the Ilocano uplands and all he hears is "Diak maawatan..." – which eventually becomes a catch phrase.

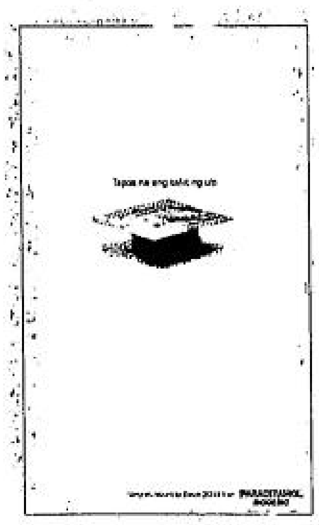
Globe "Punk" (aka "Katrina") wins Platinum (Casting) and Best in TV at the Ad Congress.

Another tv commercial shows "everyone wants to be like July."

2004

Engaging ads about a barkada of boys keep Chippy sales crunchy. One spot spoofs the popular Asian horror movie, The Ring.

Agency billings exceed ₱2 billion.



Biogesic wins ad of the month for April, followed by two radio ads of the month in May. Still more: a Pioneer print ad is finalist in London International Advertising Awards, and a Globe Gentxt New Year ad also makes the finals at the New York Festivals.

Some Harrison ads for Jack 'n Jill, Globe Handyphone and United Laboratories air in key cities across Asia.

[Harrison stands for] strategically-driven creative output. Good "feel" for the local consumer/market. Our true business partner. – JUN VIVAR, VICE PRESIDENT, CONSUMER HEALTH DIVISION, UNITED LABORATORIES

"No longer content with the traditional problem-solution approach everyone else is doing, [Unilab, with Harrison] offer consumers a campaign which truly epitomizes what Enervon is and what it can do for you. Taking vitamins is not only about preventing sickness or fighting stress. At the end of the day, it's all about enabling our consumers to DO MORE, LIVE MORE. – ALVIN SO, AVP, CONSUMER HEALTH DIVISION, UNITED LABORATORIES

2005

A new beginning: Harrison Communications, Inc. launches as an agency independent of mother company, McCann Erickson.

REC
mas may recall

H marks the spot

"To enhance the ad agency's creative spirit on every front and aspect of service, " was the objective of McCann-Erickson Philippines' 1995 Renaissance Program. From this, the idea of an M.E.2, a second agency, was born. It was christened HK McCann in 1996, as homage to agency founder Harrison King McCann. Though it was definitely not a "me, too".

HK, as it was fondly called, was to be a launch pad for new marketing communication disciplines like Direct Marketing, Events Management and Design. Even years later, as it added more mainstream work to its portfolio, HK would remain true to its non-trad beginnings, always delivering work that was out-of-the box.

"The relationship [with Harrison] has truly evolved from the early days in 1997. [Today] we have achieved an inherent understanding of each other, respect for what we each bring to the relationship, even fondness for the members of each other's team. It's a relationship that probably goes beyond numbers." Lorenzo Chan, President & CEO, Pioneer Life Inc.

In 1998, HK McCann's name was changed (partly because people thought it was based in Hong Kong). Harrison Communications became its second name (which made outsiders think it was the shopping plaza.) If its name was a point of confusion, Harrison's communications were anything but.

Harrison Communications has provided some of the country's market leaders with world-class advertising, launching successful products and brands for its clients: Globe Telecom, Levi Strauss, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Pioneer Life Inc., Plantersbank, Southeast Asia Food Inc., United Laboratories (UNILAB), Universal Robina Corporation (URC) and Univet.

"Enervon, the country's No. 1 Vitamin Brand, has had a long and productive partnership with Harrison. With the agency, we have transformed vitamin advertising and taken it to a higher level. One thing that stands out with Harrison is their passion for their work and for their brand. [We are ensured that] what we get is really world-class." Alvin So, AVP, Consumer Health Division, United Laboratories

And now, Harrison makes its biggest change yet. (No, not another name change.)

Today, Harrison Communications formally spins off from McCann-Erickson Philippines and launches itself as an independent, full-service ad agency.

Today, Harrison is a passionate and powerful team with the intimacy, speed and flexibility of a lean creative shop, wielding the discipline, tools and resources of one of the world's most business-savvy agency networks.

Today, Harrison can easily rank as a Top 10 agency in the country based on billings.

On the creative front, Harrison has received local and foreign acclaim: two Platinums and a Best of Medium in the last Ad Congress, and several finalists in the New York Festivals and the London International Advertising Awards.

Harrison Communications is ready to be a major player in advertising, ready to make its mark with its striking new logo. It has four circles, three of them black, and one a vivid red punched with an "h" to convey its passion for what it does and how it wants to be known – *isang ahensyang kapansin-pansin*.

"Harrison deserves all the independent recognition from its clients and the industry in general. We salute our Harrison Teammates for consistently enriching our value proposition to our subscribers through excellent insight mining, strategy development, winning creative execution and fresh multimedia approaches." Ferdz Dela Cruz, Head - Wireless Business Group, Globe Telecom.

Leading Harrison Communications into its ninth year is a trio with 55 years of combined agency experience.

DINO LAURENA
Managing Partner

There when it all began, Dino was one of the brave few who made up the 30-strong team of HK McCann in `96.

Aside from 12 years in McCann, Dino previously worked in five multinational agencies, and has handled accounts from Del Monte to De Beers, from Unilever to Unilab, from Isuzu to Nissan, from Monterey to Citibank.

In 1998, Dino was made General Manager of Harrison Communications. The great digital telco war was about to break; URC had assigned its baked goods/biscuits business to the agency (and later made it its lead agency for all snack foods); Unilab's competitors were advertising more; and, Pioneer had to make some explanations. Dino led the two year-old agency to some of its more successful campaigns and profitable years.

And so, the 30-person agency – and the workload - tripled in size. Dino would soon call on old friends to help manage this whirlwind of an agency.

MARICEL PANGILINAN-ARENAS
Managing Partner

Maricel bid advertising goodbye in 1998 to spend more time with family and study art. In 2002, she got a text inviting her to be Harrison's Consultant-Client Service Director for the Globe Telecom account. Upon the advice of her five-year old son Joey, Maricel came back to help out old friends and handle the fast-evolving telco account.

Maricel first joined McCann in 1981, eventually heading the division that handled Johnson & Johnson, Del Monte, Citibank, Levi Strauss and Goodyear. She also headed the Research Department that conducted McCann's Youth Study, Male Study and Women's Study. Her stint in Harrison was only supposed to last three months. Three years later, she's still here and now co-manages with Dino.

She continues to get the most precious of advice from Joey, now 8.

TEENY GONZALES
Executive Creative Director

In 1990, Teeny was the newbie copywriter who made Filipino teens sing out loud, "Ito ang Gusto Ko!" with her Royal Tru-Orange ads.

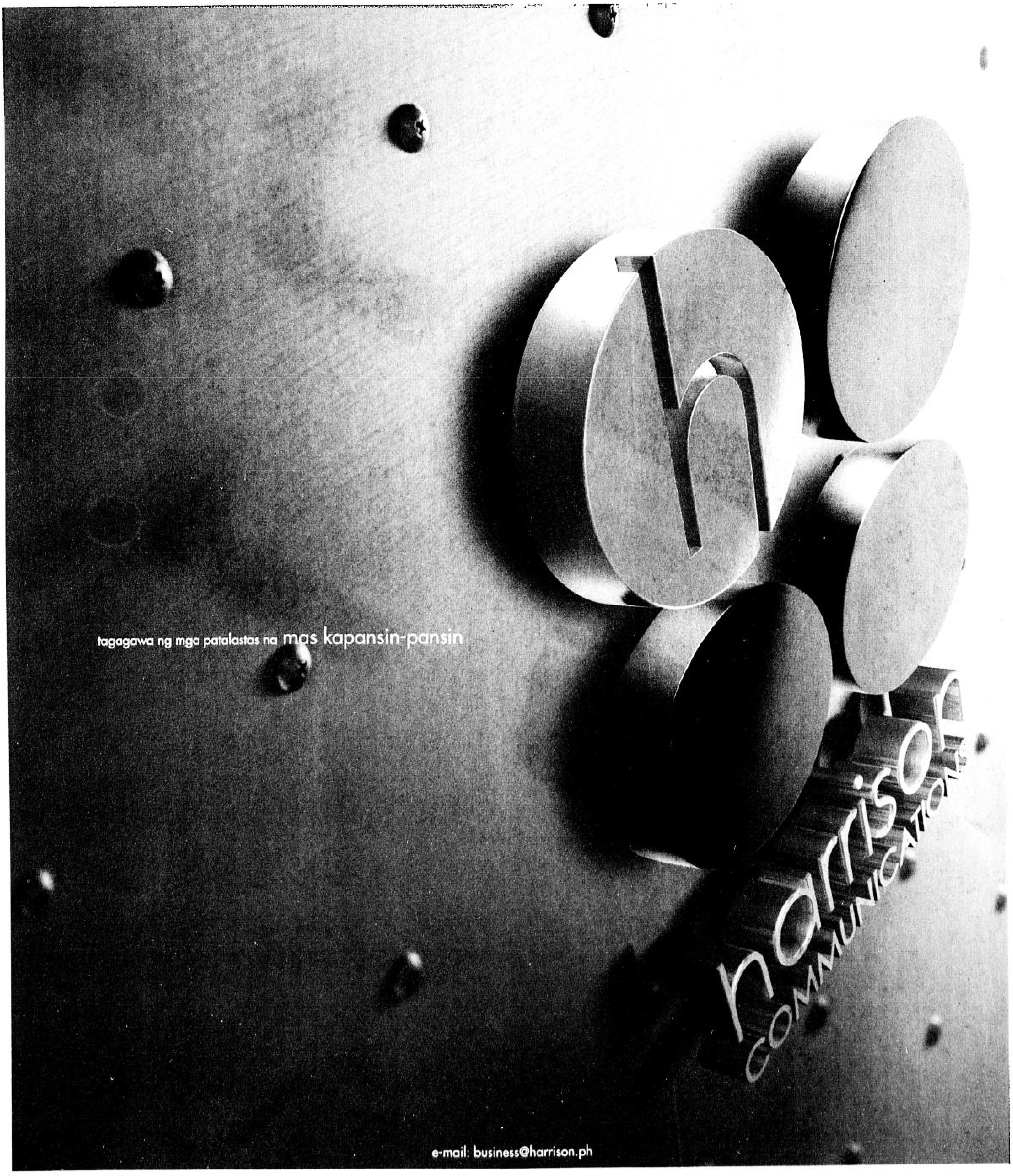
As Creative Director of the Coke team, she made teens exclaim "Magpakatotoo ka!" with the award-winning Sprite campaign. She also worked on Del Monte, Jollibee and Maggi, before a text invited her to walk three blocks up the road to become the Executive Creative Director of Harrison in 2002.

Since then, she has led Harrison in crafting breakthrough, award-winning ads.

"What I value most about Harrison is that they take it upon themselves to be a real business partner to Globe Handyphone, going beyond the realm of a traditional agency which just makes spots for Client. In my line of business, I need an Agency partner who will always find a way to get the impossible done and Harrison has every willingness to make that happen. Of course, it doesn't hurt at all that their creatives are simply excellent." Chinky Alcedo, Head, Globe Handyphone Marketing, Globe Telecom

It is a new year for everyone at Harrison – all of whom look forward to becoming a wellspring of famous work that will continue to build reputation and business growth for Filipino brands.

Harrison Communications, Inc. 34F LKG Tower 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Tel: (632)8842300 For inquiries, e-mail Dino Laurena at business@harrison.ph; for openings, e-mail work@harrison.ph


tagagawa ng mga patalastas na mas kapansin-pansin
harrison COMMUNICATIONS
e-mail: business@harrison.ph